

Another Word March 7, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

I pray our first message of Lent was both thought provoking and informative. Over the next several weeks we will continue our journey with Jesus to the cross, as recorded in the book of Mark, chapters 14 and 15.

Wow! What an incredible first response to the Baby Bottle campaign! After one day, there are only 5 bottles left on the table. We thank you for your willingness to participate again this year. The return date is April 24th, the week after Easter.

Donita and I will again be sponsoring a table at the Ashland Pregnancy and Care Center's annual fundraising banquet, April 21, 2022. The guest speaker will be Dr. Alveda King. Please let us know if you are interested in attending this special night.

Our scriptures for this coming Sunday are: Psalm 27, read by Elder Shelley Carpenter, and Mark 14: 26-52, read by Todd Whitmer. This week, we will look at, "Jesus in Gethsemane." Emersyn Henderson will sing, "Gethsemane."

As we go to prayer, please ask for safety and peace to reign in Eastern Europe.

Great God of love. To You we offer our praise and give You honor and glory. We thank You for our gift of life, and the opportunities You provide for us. Our joy comes from the knowledge that You are always with us, guiding us, and protecting us. May we always be alert to Your

voice as You show us ways to reach those who are in need of healing and peace. All this we lift up to You, in Jesus' name, Amen

As I was making a deposit at our local bank, the teller yawned two or three times, almost losing track of where she was in the midst of the transaction. Of course, that reminded me of a story I read recently.

A German bank teller was in the middle of a money transfer when he accidentally dozed off, while his finger was on the "2" key. The amount he was to transfer was 62.40 euros. However, his "power nap" transferred 222 million euros, almost 300 million dollars, into the customer's account. (Not a bad windfall.) This mistake cost the teller, and an employee who verified the transfer, their jobs. By being sleepy, not watchful, and not able to keep alert, their actions almost became a nightmare for the bank. (Yes, the transfer was corrected.)

Part of our message this Sunday will take place in a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus takes His disciples there for some quiet time and prayer. Jesus then instructed them to stay awake, to stay alert, and to "keep watch" with Him (Mark 14: 34). But they all fell asleep (vv.37, 40-41). Their failure to stay awake and pray left them defenseless. When Jesus needed them the most, their lack of vigilance left them weak and unable to come to His aid, and they all fled Him. (Mark 14:50.)

We all need to remain physically awake, as well as spiritually aware by spending more time in God's Word. All kinds of unwanted problems and temptations can be "deposited" in our lives if we don't keep watch, stay awake, be vigilant, and pray.

In His Peace, *Rich*