

## **Another Word. April 28, 2020**

Dear First Christian Church,

I have started my next round of calls, and it is so wonderful to speak with each of you. Remember, if you have a praise or prayer request let me know or call the church office and leave a message. Stay in contact with each other by phone, cards, texts, and email because staying in touch brings us closer not only with each other, but also with God.

Our weekly church services are reaching and blessing people across our country. We are receiving cards and emails from many folks expressing their thanks for being there each week and giving them hope, peace, and courage in these troubling times. Please continue to spread the word to others to tune in to our services found on our website.

With the information and updates provided by our Governor yesterday, some businesses will soon be reopening. That is a very good sign, but we aren't out of the woods quite yet. Continue to use common sense, be cautious, stay safe, and secure in the confidence that we all will soon, by the grace of God, be back worshipping together on King Road.

For those who tune into our services, please have a cracker and a small juice available that we may take together during the time of communion.

May we pray.

Most Holy God. We come to you this day to praise You and to glorify Your name. We thank you for the gift of life and the opportunities that our lives present to us. May we always see and follow Your will, and to reach out and extend a helping hand to our neighbor. In the midst of the fears and uncertainties that surround us, make Yourself known to us so we may be comforted and strengthened by Your presence. Please reach out and touch those who are in need of physical and spiritual healing .....(silent prayers). You, and You alone are our God, and all

praise and honor we lift to You. We pray this through Jesus, our savior who taught us to pray, Our Father in Heaven, holy is Your name. May your kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those that sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever, Amen

I read the other day about someone who has their smart phone's alarm set to go off at a specific time each day. She happens to have hers set for 3:16 pm. Hmmm! See where this is going? So, every day when the alarm goes off, regardless of what she is in the middle of, stops and takes a "Praise" break. She thanks God for her life and acknowledges His love and goodness. Although she prays to God during the day, she says that she loves to stop, take a break from the worries of the world, and just celebrate her close relationship with God. What a marvelous idea.

So far, I haven't been able to figure out how to set my phone alarm to go off each day, but at least for now my selected time is written down and committed to memory. (Donita knows, 8:32am) My time will be devoted to thanking Jesus for His sacrifice and lifting a prayer for those who have yet to be saved. Can you imagine what the world would be like if every believer would stop once each day, at a specific time just to Praise God, thank Jesus, and lift up a prayer for another?

To get an idea of what the world would be like, I encourage you to read Psalm 67. It is only 7 verses but packed with goodness. The Psalmist begins by saying "God is gracious to us" and implores God to "make His face shine on us" and to "make Your ways known to all the world". (vv.1-2). Then he sings "may the people Praise you O God, may all the people Praise you". (v3) That needs to be us. Every day, lifting Praises to

God. For if we do, then “all the nations will celebrate God’s faithful rule and guidance, be glad, and sing for joy”. (v.4) The Psalmist then leads us again in Praise because “the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us”, and then he repeats, “God will bless us!” (vv.5-6)

The Psalmist is telling us that God is faithful to those who Praise and acknowledge Him. And as we Praise and acknowledge Him, we are blessed, and those in our prayers can also be blessed and join us in trusting, loving, following, and Praising our Lord and Savior.

Will you join me each day, at a time of your own choosing to stop, call on His name, Praise Him, and acknowledge His goodness? For if we do, “our God will Bless us.”

In His Peace,

*Rich*