

# Worship Servants:

This week: 11/19/23

Sermon: Matt J  
 Preside: John S, McCloud  
 Scott S, Kolton S  
 Opening Prayer: David H  
 Closing Prayer: Glenn E  
 Singing AM: Alex H  
 Singing PM: Dalton S

Next week: 11/26/23

Sermon: Matt J  
 Preside: Dylan N, Doug M  
 Justin H, Matt S  
 Opening Prayer: Scott S  
 Closing Prayer: Danny D  
 Singing AM: John S  
 Singing PM: Prayer Service

## Sermon Notes

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**Mercedes Drive**  
 Church of Christ

November 19, 2023

VOL. 16 NO. 47

*Welcome*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**LADIES' BIBLE STUDY** | December 5, 6:30pm  
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall  
 Held monthly on the first Tuesday.

**SATURDAY SISTERS** | TBD

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** |

**TEENS IN THE WORD** | TBD

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** | November 26 @ 7:45am  
 At the building.

**IN BETWEENERS NIGHT** | Dec. 8 @ 6pm  
 White elephant part @ Jones House

**Ladies Swag Party** | November 25  
 Talk to Juanita for details

Check the bulletin in the foyer for more announcements and upcoming events.

## Service Times

**Sunday:** Bible Class 9 AM  
 Worship 10 AM  
 Worship 6 PM

**Wednesday:** Bible Class 6 PM

## Elders

Danny Dailey 205-799-0917  
 David Harbin 205-292-3515

## Deacons

John Sloan  
 James McDonald

## Minister

Matt Jones 205-616-1165  
 EMAIL: matt65jones@gmail.com

## Church Contacts:

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# Pray For Boldness

Brian Ketchem

Acts chapters 2 and 3 are the triumphal chapters of the church that Christ built. The apostles, emboldened by the message and the Holy Spirit, preached Christ through the Old Testament. Massive amounts of converts were being added to the church by the Lord. The church had built a community that was loving, encouraging, and caring for each other.

Sometimes, we over-idealize things that are in the past. We look back on 30 years ago or even pre-COVID and, in our minds, create an idealized community. I don't think Luke, the inspired writer, is guilty of doing the same thing. I cannot imagine what the early church community looked like, but I know I want to be part of it. As the saying goes, however, all good things must come to an end. After a short period of tremendous growth and peace, the early church was about to face its first challenge.

In Acts 4, the text says that the Sadducees came upon them while Peter and John were speaking and arrested them. This was the first sign of hardship in the church. I cannot imagine what the early church thought as they watched these influential preachers carried off by the Jewish leaders. A tragic turn of events suddenly confused what was a perfect situation. So, what do you do when trouble comes up? You pray.

After Peter and John were released, they returned to the disciples. They reported all that had happened with the chief priests and scribes, and then the disciples prayed. I can't help but think how their prayer sounds very different than one I would have prayed. If it was in this century, I think we would have said things like, "heal their wounds" or "Lord take away the persecution we are facing." Instead, the new Christians leaned heavily on the Old Testament and emphasized God's sovereignty.

First, they addressed God as the creator. They then went to their inspired songbook and referenced Psalm 2. This psalm is directly applicable because it starts out talking about people who would try to oppose God's plan. What is interesting is that they leave out the main point of the psalm.

**"As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill."**

**I will tell of the decree:**

**The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you."**

Psalm 2 is a messianic psalm directly referencing the lordship of Jesus. Instead of a prayer for deliverance or healing, the prayer is a praise and request for boldness. This account makes me question what I am taking to God in prayer. Much like the early disciples, we can see where the world is (seemingly) becoming more antagonistic to the truth. So, do I ask God to remove my persecution? Or do I say, "I know you are in charge, help me be bold as I carry out your mission!"

# WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- Donna Dailey is recovering from surgery
- McKinley Kidd high schooler at WBHS is having health struggles
- Capri Day's mother passed away
- Bill Finnen, coworker with Scott Sloan, has pneumonia and is in bad shape
- Ken Ramay and his recovery from procedure / spiritual struggles
- Brad Berryhill, friend of Glenn Edwards, has pneumonia and is not doing well
- Todd Pierce, Jay and Kitty's neighbor, having life struggles
- Kenzi Swindel has started her treatments
- Sandy Mears is in hospital for irregular heartbeat
- Dominic Jackson lost his father tragically and he is a 9th grader.
- Jimmy Bearden, West Blocton resident, diagnosed with lung cancer
- Wayne, brother in law of Kitty's friend, having health struggles
- Sharlene, friend of Kitty, is having a hard time these days.
- Reatha Griffin is having a lot of health issues.
- Joel Booth, member of Cicero family, has health struggles.
- 2 young ladies from Brookwood High School who are having mental struggles
- Mike Marlowe spot on arm biopsied awaiting test results
- Alma Parrot, Edwards brothers' sister, not doing well
- Bekah Vining, West Blocton resident, has breast cancer. She is young.
- Eric Hiott blood clot in the brain after heart surgery
- Yvonne Cicero's great aunt Nell Tomlin is starting radiation for cancer.
- Bridgett Hobson friend of Juanita, her brain tumor is back. Treatment plan figured out
- SHANE ACRE'S DAD, Eddie, had his port put in for chemo
- Kyson Farley, Donna Dailey's grandnephew, has kidney cancer and is on Chemo
- BARBIE SMITH'S FATHER and all of health issues, is making progress.

## ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 76

Worship P.M. .... 32

Wed P.M. ....38

## CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$2,072.00

## BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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|---------------|-------|
| Matt Jones    | 11/6  |
| McCloud Sloan | 11/7  |
| Sandy Mears   | 11/8  |
| John Sloan    | 11/12 |
| Georgia Jones | 11/23 |
| Krew Selman   | 11/30 |