

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

- ❖ Evensong service is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, Logos Auditorium, 6:00 pm.
- ❖ Heads of Households parish meetings: Usually held the second Tuesday of each month, 8:00 pm, locations to be announced on email.
- ❖ Family Psalm Sing is usually held the third Sunday evening of each month, 6:00-7:00 pm, Logos Auditorium.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ❖ No Sunday School classes are being held at this time.

NURSERY

- ❖ A nursing room is available for mothers only to use in the literature room (Room 2) out the west doors, down the stairs to the main building, first door on the left. If a father needs to take a crying baby or toddler out of the service, he may use the room down the hall next to the storage room. Dads, please don't go into the nursing room. Both rooms are sound wired, so the church service can be heard. Also, the sixth grade classroom is available for parents to use for disciplining their children.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ❖ Prayer requests: If you have a prayer request for the Sunday morning service or for the email prayer chain, please call the church office (882-2034) by Friday morning or contact Wes Struble (882-6163) or Ed Iverson (882-4848).
- ❖ Visitor cards are available on the back table. If you're visiting this morning, please fill one out and drop it in the offering box.
- ❖ The elders visit different homes on Tuesday nights, except for the Heads of Households meeting nights. If you'd like to receive a visit from an elder, please contact the office.
- ❖ The deacons fund is for needy families in our church. If you would like to donate toward this cause, please make your check to Christ Church, designating the Deacons Fund. Remember the Christian Education Fund, and the fact that some families are in need. Funds are available, and questions can be referred to the deacons.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 13

Tuesday, December 15

- ❖ Orchestra practice: Anselm House, 7:00-9:00 pm.

Wednesday, December 16

- ❖ Adult Choir: Logos Auditorium, 7:00-8:30 pm.

Thursday, December 17

- ❖ Precept-Romans Study: 9:00-11:00 am at the Crossing.

- ❖ "Heaven Misplaced" Ladies Book Study: Donna Grauke's home, 2:00 pm.

Friday, December 18

- ❖ Men's prayer for reformation and revival: Anselm House, 6:30 am.

- ❖ Weekly ladies prayer meeting for outreach ministries: 8:15-8:45 am, Greyfriars' Hall.

NEW NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ Christmas Caroling in front of Ross at the Mall: Sunday, December 20, 4:00 pm. This event will replace the Family Psalm Sing this month.
- ❖ Winter Feast: Friday, January 22, 6:00-8:30pm, SEL.
- ❖ Church office holiday closure: Dec. 21-Jan. 2.
- ❖ Christmas Eve service: Logos Fieldhouse, 5:00 pm.

COLLEGE MINISTRIES NEWS & EVENTS

Contact Matt Gray- 883-7903 (o), 596-9787 (c)

- ❖ Weekly meeting: Finished for the semester.
- ❖ College Girls Inductive Bible Studies:
Ephesians: Thursdays, Lisa Jackson's home, 730 E. 8th St, Apt I, 8:00 pm.
Philippians: Brooke Newman's home, cancelled until after Christmas.
- ❖ NSA/UI/WSU Men's Bible Studies:
Tuesdays, 12:00 pm, Beza Classroom, (CJ Bowen).
Tuesdays, 8:30 pm, 110 Lilly Apt. 201, (Hans Leidenfrost).
Wednesdays, 7 am, 916 E. 7th St. (Sean Johnson).
Wednesdays, 8 pm, 406 "D" St., (Danny Ryan).
Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, 226 Circle Dr., (Brian Kohl).
- ❖ UI Guys' Study: Saturdays, 7:30 am, Bucer's Smoke Room. Contact: Tucker Douglas, (817) 694-1955.

CHRIST CHURCH

Lord's Day Service - 3rd Sunday of Advent - December 13, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION & PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP - God Summons His People

★ SCRIPTURE READING OF PRAISE

Minister: The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who are in awe of Him.

Congregation: **He will hear their cry and save them. Amen.**

For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him. O Lord God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them (Psalm 89:6-9).

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

★ PRAYER OF PRAISE

★ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Magnificat.....**4I6-4I9** (4I6-4I9)

CONFESSION - God Cleanses His People

EXHORTATION

SCRIPTURE READING OF CONFESSION

Congregation is invited to kneel if able

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications. If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared (Psalm 130:1-4).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall

obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away (Isaiah 35:10 NKJV).

Minister: Your sins are forgiven through Christ.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

★ CONFESSION OF FAITH

**CHRISTIAN, WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?
APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hades. On the third day He rose again from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

★ HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

What does it mean to be washed with the blood and Spirit of Christ?..... **Q. 70 (71)**

It means to have the forgiveness of sins from God, through grace, for the sake of Christ's blood which he shed for us in his sacrifice on the cross, and also to be renewed by the Holy Spirit and sanctified as members of Christ, so that we may more and more die unto sin and live in a consecrated and blameless way.

★ Rejoice, All Ye Believers.....**Handout** (Rejoice, All Ye Believers)

CONSECRATION - God Equips & Prepares His People

★ READING THE UNIVERSAL WORD

This week: Zephaniah 3:14-20 & Romans 15:4-13

Next week: Psalm 80:1-19 & Ephesians 5:8-14

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Christ Church - 205 E. 5th St, Moscow, ID - 208.882.2034 - office@christkirk.com

Elders:

Bill Church	Ed Iverson	Ralph Plaza	Gordon Wilson	Eric Burnett	Joe Myers
Dale Courtney	Mike Lawyer	John Sawyer	Fred Kohl	John Carnahan	Rusty Olps
John Grauke	Csaba	Wes Struble		Andrew	Marc Rust
Matt Gray	Leidenfrost	Matt Whitling		Crapuchettes	Marc Wintz
John Howell	Jim Nance	Douglas Wilson		Tom Garfield	

Deacons:

O Sing a New Song to the LORD.....**I34-I35** (246-47)

OPENING PRAYER

For the Lord will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance. But judgment will return to righteousness, And all the upright in heart will follow it. Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? Unless the Lord had been my help, My soul would soon have settled in silence. If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O Lord, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul (Psalm 94:14-19).

THANKSGIVING

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is the great God, And the great King above all gods (Psalm 95:1-3).

PETITIONS

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, Lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You (Psalm 143:5-8).

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

★ *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People.....***226** (225)

PREACHING OF THE PARTICULAR WORD

Text: Isaiah 40:1-8

Message: Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Concluding prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer **411**

MEDITATION

*Offertory-What Child Is This.....***250 vs 3** (251 vs. 3)

★ *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.....***227** (240-Desert)

COMMUNION - God Nourishes His People

THE BREAD & WINE

*How Lovely Shines the Morning Star!.....***220-21** vs I-3 (241)

*How Lovely Shines the Morning Star!.....***220-23** vs 4-7 (228-29)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE— AMEN

COMMISSIONING - God Blesses & Sends His People
The congregation may raise hands

★ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Savior of the Nations, Come.....***225 vs. 6** (225 vs. 6)

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen (Jude 1:25).

**MISSIONS UPDATE
CARE NET OF THE PALOUSE**

Pray for our annual Adopt -A-Family project for Christmas. We have a list of families in need and only a small handful of sponsors. Please pray that the families with greatest needs will be adopted and that we love these families with the love of Jesus and make the most of this opportunity to extend His grace this season.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND PETITION

THANKSGIVING — FOR...

- ❖ Our children.
- ❖ The ministry of The King's Congregation of Boise, ID and for Alan Burrow.
- ❖ The ministry of Care Net of the Palouse.

NEW REQUESTS, PRAY FOR:

- ❖ Christians who are persecuted in other countries, especially in China.
- ❖ The United States Supreme Court.
- ❖ Care Net of the Palouse.

REQUESTS FROM DECEMBER 6, 2009

- ❖ Christians who are persecuted in other countries, especially in India.
- ❖ The President of the United States, that his office would be established in righteousness.
- ❖ Trinity Baptist Church: Pray for their college students as the semester comes to a close and families at Trinity Baptist that are hurting as a result of the economy.
- ❖ Healing for Bruce Menadier's father.
- ❖ Healing for the mothers of Suzanne Smathers and Lisa Just.

CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS

- ❖ The unmarried men and women in the church.
- ❖ CRF, *Credenda*, Canon Press, and the church mission plants.
- ❖ Education: NSA, Logos School, Montrose Academy, ACCS, Pullman Christian School, UI, WSU, LCSC.
- ❖ Eddie Gray, Jr., James Denham, Heather Casebolt Teston, Neil (Ray) Crawford, Emily Peterson, Jerry Langreder.
- ❖ Repentance of sin and salvation for Jon LaMoreaux and Daniel Miller.
- ❖ Pray for Douglas Wilson and the Christ Church elders as they seek to serve God in leading the church.
- ❖ Parents as they educate their children.
- ❖ Upcoming marriages of Ryan Handerman to Courtney Wright (12/18), Justin Spencer to Emily Gray (12/29), Timothy Van den Broek to Anna

Davy. (12/30), Skyler Hoefl to Chelsey Bowes (1/1/10), Jordan Leithart to Jamie Van Till (1/9/10), Brad Belschner to Sara Field (1/23/10), Isaiah Eyre to Leia Thomas(5/22/10), Drew Hicks to Samantha Ricketts (6/5/10), Eric Mabry to Hannah Benton.

- ❖ Pray for the Greyfriars' Hall students.
 - ❖ Complete healing for Billy Amos, Evangeline Anderson, Betty Appel, Fran Atwood, Paige Atwood, Arie DeWinkle, Julie Garfield, Emmaline Handel, Lizzie Klier, Fred Kohl, Lisa Leidenfrost, Brady, Erin, and Sherry McIntosh, Brian Nuttbrock, Beza Qualls, Kalkidan Qualls, Lisa Qualls, Don Quist, Cecily Rathbun, Michelle Roise, Daniel Rosendahl, Nancy Rust, Morgan Schlect, Nesradine Schumaker, Layla Shaw, Andrew Stafford, Tovia Sumpter, Bessie Wilson.
 - ❖ Colleen McGarry, who is working with Servant Group, Int'l. in northern Iraq.
 - ❖ The Christ Church and Trinity Reformed Church expectant mothers: December-Katie Nuttbrock, Jennifer Bunch; January-Casey Griffith, Nancy Jacobs, Heather Wilson, Ruth Hill; February-Amber Myers, Jenny Story, Ashley Antkowiak; March-Lindsey Tollefson, Katie Grauke, Alberta Arrick, Beth Peterson; April-Rachel Jankovic, Mary Dowers; May-Kristen Telling, Emily Bartlett, Alexis Stevenson, Brooke Newman; June-Melissa Breese.
 - ❖ Other expectant mothers who don't attend either church or have moved but are connected to the churches in some way through family members, etc.: December-Hannah Griffith; January-Christine Creason; May-Natali Rose (Greenfield); June-Elizabeth Nieuwsma.
 - ❖ Ian Bloomsburg, as he serves in the U.S. Army in New York; Mike Fenimore as he serves in Germany; Kelly VanNuland, Sam Kimmell in the U.S. Navy in Spain; Daniel Klier in the Marines; Nate Atwood; Chilton Williams in the Navy on the USS Enterprise.
- STANDING PRAYER REQUESTS — PRAY FOR...**
- ❖ Cultural stability, that we might live quiet and peaceable lives.
 - ❖ State and local authorities as well as UI/WSU/NSA Presidents.
 - ❖ The Bakwe' in the Ivory Coast and for stability and peace in the country.
 - ❖ Reformation and revival in the church.

“MAY I COME TO THE LORD’S TABLE?”

The Lord's Supper is observed every Lord's Day at Christ Church. We warmly invite to the Lord's table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. You also acknowledge to the elders of this congregation that you are in covenant with God, being active in a congregation which is covenantally bound to the triune God through Word and sacrament. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to the elders before or after the service.

TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY

INTRODUCTION:

Last Lord's Day, the message was brought to us from the conclusion of Isaiah 40, and we learned from that message that there are two kinds of waiting. There is a waiting that causes our strength to dissipate, and there is a waiting that gathers our strength for us. There is a waiting that renews, an anticipation that is full of joy, and there is a waiting that is an emotional corrosive. This week we want to develop this idea further, and to do so from a few verses earlier in that same chapter.

THE TEXT:

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry, And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Is. 40:1-8).

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT:

The text begins with comfort (v. 1). Godly preparation does not begin with affliction, but such preparation actually ends the affliction. How so? The prophet speaks comfortably to Jerusalem, telling her that her sins are forgiven before the great deliverance arrives (v. 2). The next verse is a prophecy of the ministry of John the Baptist (v. 3; Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:3; John 1:23), who prepared the way for the coming Christ. Every valley is lifted up, and the high places are humbled—for just one example, Zebulun is humbled, and Galilee is exalted (Is. 9:1). Notice that this time of preparation is a time when things are made level, not uneven, when things are made smooth, not rough, when things are made straight, not crooked (v. 4). This time is aiming for a particular result, which is the revelation of the glory of the Lord, which all mankind will see (v. 5; Luke 3:4-6). The prophet is told to cry out—but what is he told to cry? Men are like the grass, and their glory is like the flowers of the field (v. 6)—and as the grass withers and the flowers fades, so men also fade (because of the breath of the Lord). This passage is quoted by the apostle Peter (1 Pet. 1:24-25), to the effect that the Word preached to Christians is the Word that stands forever, and it is the Word by which Christians are born again (1 Pet. 1:23). This means that men who are regenerate are no longer numbered with the withered grass and fading flowers. That Word is preached “by the Holy Spirit” (1 Pet. 1:12), which is of course the same breath that makes the flowers fade.

TWO KINDS OF SORROW:

Just as there are two kinds of waiting, so also there are two kinds of sorrow—and they parallel the two kinds of waiting. One dissipates strength and the other restores it. One kind of sorrow rakes you over the coals, and the other is the word that speaks comfort. “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2 Cor. 7:10). One sorrow leads to comfort and no regret, and the other leads to sorrow upon sorrow. You can be sorry today, sorry tomorrow, and you can die sorry. *That is not what Christ came to do for you.*

REPENTANT OR PENITENTIAL:

Our English words *repentance* and *penitence* are obviously related to one another (via the Latin *paenitere*), and we do have to be careful not to be superstitious about words. But there are different connotations to these words (in English) having to do with their history in our theological debates. Beginning with Tynsdale, who translated *metanoete* as *repent*, instead of *do penance*, we have had a long history of distinguishing what it means to receive the grace of God, and what it means to try to surreptitiously earn the grace of God. Luther’s 95 Theses began with this whole issue of penitence understood in gospel terms: “Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in saying “Repent ye,” etc., intended that the whole life of believers should be penitence.”

THE REAL DEAL:

True repentance should take the time to confess and forsake real *sin*, and the time should not be wasted through indulgence in nebulous angst about possible sinfulness that is always carefully undefined. “Penitential” seasons can be put to a genuinely good use if they are a time when serious, once-for-all mortification of particular sins occurs—if real sins and real bad habits are uprooted from your life. Pray, practice and pursue Colossian 3:5 and 3:8. Who could possibly be against that? The real problems come in when sin is not really dealt with, and yet the times of squirrel-cage run penitence don’t even slow down, and the penitent daily comes to resemble more closely the policemen in Penzance. “Yes, but you don’t go!”

GLAD TIDINGS:

Jesus assumes that such times can be spiritually healthy, but He requires His followers to keep it a secret that they are observing such a time. “Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face: That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly” (Matt. 6:16-18). A fast is a time for reflection, personal discipline, and confession, and if you are doing this during a penitential season, Jesus requires that you take reasonable measures to hide what you are doing from others. Why? Because your life should embody the truth that this entire season is a time when we are bringing to the world tidings of comfort and joy.