

Prayer for our President

Proverbs 21:1

“In the LORD’s hand the king’s heart is a stream of water that He channels toward all who please Him.”

Psalms 47:7-9

“For God is the King of all the earth; sing to Him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne. The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.”

Psalms 72:11

“May all kings bow down to Him and all nations serve Him.”

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for our President. Please give him divine wisdom to lead this country. We pray that he would serve and revere You in his words and actions. We humbly ask that You grant him grace to know how to unify our country.

We are facing immense challenges regarding public health, a pandemic, financial hardship, economic shutdowns, racial tensions, devastation from violence and riots in the streets, and great political division among many other things. Our President faces fierce challenges and opportunities on the domestic and international fronts. Please grant our President divine wisdom to navigate our country through the uncertain path that lies ahead.

“The Mark of the Christian”

Through the centuries men have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn marks in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts.

... But there is a much better sign—a mark that has not been thought up just as a matter of expediency for use on some special occasion or in some specific era. It is a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back...

Love—and the unity it attests to—is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

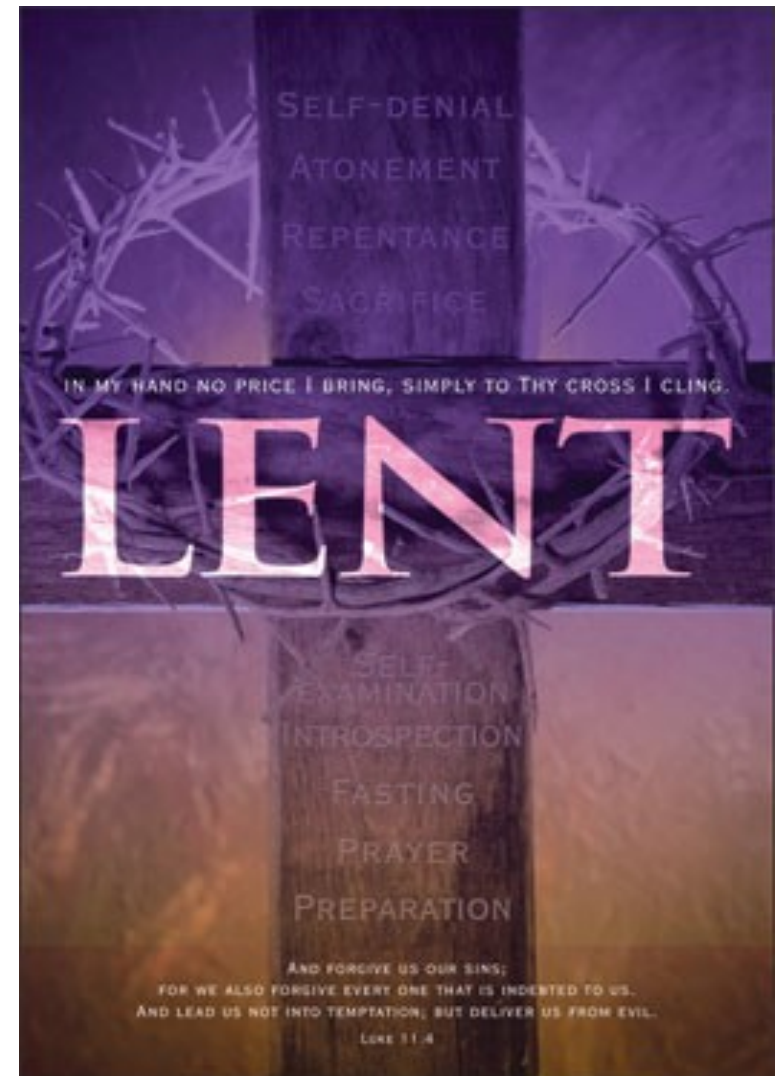
Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer*, 5 vols. (Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1982), 4:183, 204.



February 28, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Denial, Betrayal, and Love



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Reflections from the Youth Winter Retreat of 2021

Recognition of the Graduation of Ashley Adams

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymns of Adoration

“Come Praise and Glorify” Chester/Kauflin

“From the Day” Palmer/Smith/Hein/Kulia

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise

“Jesus Friend of Sinners”. Hall/West

Children are Dismissed to Sunday School

----- God's Renewal-----

Scripture Warning

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Galatians 2:20

Song of Renewal: “What Grace is Mine”. Getty

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: John 13:21–38 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon: The Farewell Discourses

“Denial, Betrayal, and Love”

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Hymn: “O the Blood” Miller

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn: “The Cause of Christ” Jobe/Hastintgs/Fowler

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 2/21/2021

Offering: \$2,146.40

Attendance: 41

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

In the early third century, Tertullian wrote, “It is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us! ‘See,’ they say, ‘how they love one another . . . see how they are ready even to die for one another.’”²

Nothing so astonishes a fractured world as a community in which radical, faithful, genuine love is shared among its members. There are many places you can go to find communities of shared interest. There are many places you can go to find people just like yourself, who live for sports or music or gardening or politics. But it is the mandate of the church to become a community of love, a circle of Christ's followers who invest in one another because Christ has invested in them, who exhibit love not based on the mutuality and attractiveness of its members, but on the model of Christ, who washed the feet of everyone (including Judas).³

The new commandment to love has received a *new measure* in the atoning death of Jesus.

Our love for one another is to be marked by the same sacrificial love that Jesus has shown for us. Seldom will it be the case that any of us are literally called to die in the place of a fellow Christian. But true Christian love involves a long sequence of little deaths as we set aside our own pride, our own preferences, our own sense of privilege. Jesus laid down his rights for our salvation, and we are to lay down whatever we think we are entitled to for the sake of our fellow Christians and the church.⁴

The commandment to love has been infused with a *new power* through Christ's death and subsequent resurrection.

Conclusion

How will we love our Lord Jesus, who is not physically present?

By giving to one another the sacrificial love that Jesus has given to us. Jesus said of his cross, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him” (John 13:31). This prompts us to ask: “How may God the Father and God the Son be glorified in us?” The answer is that when we die to sin and to self, taking up our own cross to follow after Jesus, and love one another, God is glorified by his people. And this—the glory of God—is our highest calling as followers of Christ.⁵

¹Burge, G. M. (2000). *John* (p. 380). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

²Tertullian, *Apology*, 39, cited in Hendricksen, *John*, 254.

³Burge, G. M. (2000). *John* (p. 387). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁴Phillips, R. D. (2014). *John*. (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.) (1st ed., Vol. 2, pp. 179–180). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

⁵Phillips, R. D. (2014). *John*. (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.) (1st ed., Vol. 2, p. 182). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

hard for us to embrace both. It's hard for us to believe how deeply He loves us and it's hard for us to believe that He rescued us to be instruments of bearing fruit rescuing others.¹

The Betrayal of Judas The Glorification of Jesus

The departure of Judas set in motion a train of events that would lead directly to the cross. Jesus foresaw his betrayal and told Judas to do his deed quickly (John 13:27). But Jesus saw beyond his ordeal to the ultimate result: "Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him' " (13:31).

This story of the betrayal of Judas is more than a description of one man's demise. In Judas we have a man who could be no closer to the revelation. In spite of his proximity to the light, he chooses the darkness. John invites us to reflect on the horror of this.

Does the same thing happen in the church today?

The setting of the Upper Room was a spiritual turning point in which Jesus was doing profound spiritual work. But at the same time, where God is most deeply at work, Satan's attack is that much more acute.

"Judas is the reminder that every day is judgment day and that on any day some faithful follower, like Judas—or like you and me—might turn tail on the light and stumble out into the darkness, caught up in evil or caught up by evil's prince."

We too, then, are in danger—in danger of misunderstanding Jesus and of being seduced by our own dreams and visions for life. In doing this work, we betray Jesus.

A New Commandment, A New Situation and A New Priority

The command to love was one of John's foremost concerns. Throughout his letters he refers to it again and again as the hallmark of those in whose lives the presence of God is being reflected (1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11; 2 John 1:5).

The love command puts in abstract words what Jesus meant in 13:14 when he told his disciples to wash one another's feet. As we discovered above, the same rule applies here: Unless one has a profound experience of being loved, it is virtually impossible to express profound love for another.²

Upcoming Events

Tonight, Sunday February 28 from 6-8 P.M.

Youth Group will meet at the Deicherts for Bible Study and Fellowship.

Wednesday, March 3 7:00 P.M.

Coventry-Warwick Ministerium Lenten Service on youtube, Can be viewed any time. The link is on the GCC website. This week's speaker is Pastor Cindy McKinley.

Sunday, March 21 6:15-7:15 P.M.

GCC Prayer Gathering at the House of Prayer
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA



Congratulations to Ashley Adams who graduated with a **Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Cairn University** in Langhorne, PA. She interned at Nationality Service Center of Philadelphia where she worked with refugees. She would like to continue working with refugees in the future. Her passion was ignited to do this work during her mission trip to Greece two years ago when she helped the refugees at the Moria Refugee camp which at the time was the 2nd largest refugee camp in the world. Pray for Ashley as she searches for employment.

Small Group

In a world increasingly indifferent to Christian truth, followers of Christ need to be equipped to communicate with those who do not speak their language or accept their source of authority.



In this Small Group we will learn from apologist and radio host Gregory Kousser who demonstrates how to get in the driver's seat in discussions about faith, keeping any conversation moving with thoughtful, artful tact:

- Initiate conversations effortlessly
- Present the truth clearly, cleverly, and persuasively
- Graciously and effectively expose faulty thinking
- Skillfully manage the details of dialogue
- Maintain an engaging, disarming style even under attack

Come join us starting mid-March

See Karl Yorgey or Pastor Rick for more information.

Prayer/Praise.February 28, 2021

- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise. Ashley was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer. Pray for wisdom for her treatment team, healing for Ashley, and God's strength and peace for Ashley and her family.
- Pray for Paul Maloney, brother of Barb Schultz. His Parkinson's has progressed, and he is now a resident at Pennsburg Manor. Please send cards of encouragement to Paul at: Pennsburg Manor, 530 Macoby Street, Pennsburg, PA 18173.
- Pray for Jill Aument's sister, Gail, who had a nerve block on her back. Please pray that it is effective with no complications and pray for healing for Gail.
- Pray for Tyler and Kaci Yenson as they start their marriage journey together in North Carolina.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's brother-in-law, Jim, who is in the hospital with a heart issue and will need an operation. He had to have his heart shocked three times this past Monday. Pray that God will speak to his heart and for salvation and healing for Jim.
- Pray for Jenn, sister of Rick Hunter. She was in an accident on February 11th and has a partially punctured lung, four broken ribs and a bruised spleen. She has a long road ahead. Pray for God's healing for Jenn.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Justine is home from the hospital. Justine has colon cancer, but it has spread. Pray for wisdom for the doctors to have a treatment plan for her. Please continue to shower Justine with cards and prayers. Justine Schumaker, 217 Cross Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525.
- Pray for Susan Williams' father, Greg Whedbee. He is at Reading Hospital with groin pain. He has gotten over a bladder infection but cannot eat and is in pain.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's friend, Amanda. Pray for her as she had an emotional breakdown, and the family is asking for prayer for her to get the help she needs in the hospital. In addition, pray that God places a Christian counselor in her life.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' friend, Jonnie. She had a CAT Scan done and found she has three blood clots. Jonnie will be on blood thinners for three months. Pray for healing for Jonnie.
- Pray for continued healing for the father of Koreen Mace and Gwen Conrad. Pray for Gwen as she has been caring for their father.
- Pray for Dawn Fleetman, who is still in a cast. Pray for continued healing and that Dawn will be not be out of work long.
- Pray for Nic Collins, who will be going to Quito, Ecuador for a mission trip at the end of March. Pray for travel, safety, and no COVID. Pray for funds to be raised, as they will be helping in the capital with special needs children and teens.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Please pray for continued healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in physical therapy.

Message

The Farewell Discourses Denial, Betrayal, and Love

John 13:21–38 (ESV)

After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, ²⁴so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. ³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." ³⁶Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." ³⁷Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times."

Overview

These are Jesus' final words to His disciples. We call it a farewell discourse. He's getting them ready for the brutality of what is about to happen to Him, for the horror that they are going to observe and experience, for the lostness they are going to experience, and for the inexplicable wonder that they are going to find three days later. He's getting them ready; the last conversation He has.

Introduction

There are two primary trajectories in these five chapters of John. One, that the follower of Jesus is appointed to bear fruit. The other theme is, we are deeply loved by our Father. Strikingly, He is going to show us repeatedly that it's so