

# The Lord's Day

January 7, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM

Scripture for Meditation: "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common."

-Acts 2:42-44 (ESV)

Prelude Carol Jones, piano

Announcements

\* Call to Worship (Bible, p. 469) [Psalm 42:1-2, 5](#)

Leader: As a deer pants for flowing streams,

So pants my soul for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?

Why are you cast down, O my soul,

And why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,

My salvation and my God.

\* Hymn 457 [Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing](#) NETTLETON

\* Invocation

Old Testament Lesson (Bible, p. 479) [Psalm 63:1-11](#)  
(responsive & continuous reading)

New Testament Lesson (Bible, p. 1007) [Hebrews 10:19-25](#)

\*\* Silent Prayer of Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon

\* Hymn 468 [My Faith Has Found a Resting Place](#) LANDAS

\*\* Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

\* Hymn 731 [Doxology](#) OLD HUNDREDTH

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Congregation Standing

\*\* Congregation Kneeling

Sermon *Pillars of the Living Church* Pastor Will Snyder  
Text: [Acts 2:42-47](#) (Bible, p. 911)

\* Hymn 469 [How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place](#) ST. COLUMBA

The Lord's Supper

Deacon's Offering

\* Hymn (insert) *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*  
arr. J. Robinson, R. Thompson, & M. Farren

\* Benediction

Postlude

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*As you enter the Sanctuary, please be considerate of others who are quietly preparing for worship. Please silence your cell phones before the service begins.*

Nursery care is available for infants through age 3 in Rooms 2 and 4.

**Communion Reminder:** The outside rows on each cup tray contain grape juice; all other cups in each tray contain wine. The bread/cracker served is gluten-free.

## Sunday Evening Praise, 6:00 PM:

Our Sunday evening gathering of praise starts at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Come sing, pray, and hear from God's Word to close out your Lord's Day rest.

# Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

1. What gift of grace is Je - sus my re - deem - er, there is no more for hea - ven now to  
 2. The night is dark, but I am not for - sak - en, for by my side, the Sa - vior He will  
 3. No fate I dread, I know I am for - giv - en, the fu - ture sure, the price it has been  
 4. With ev - 'ry breath I long to fol - low Je - sus, for He has said that He will bring me

3  
 give, He is my joy, my righ - teous - ness, and free dom, my stead - fast love, my deep and bound - less  
 stay, I la - bor on in weak - ness and re - joic - ing, for in my deed, His pow - er is dis  
 paid, for Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my par - don, and He was raised to o - ver - throw the  
 home, and day by day I know he will re - new me, un - til I stand with joy be - fore the

7  
 peace. To this I hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus, for my life is whol - ly bound to  
 played. To this I hold, my Shep - herd will de - fend me, through the deep - est val - ley He will  
 grave. To this I hold, my sin has been de - feat - ed, Je - sus now and e - ver is my  
 throne. To this I hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus, all the glo - ry ev - er - more to

11  
 his, oh how strange and di - vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in  
 lead, oh the night has been won, and I shall o - ver - come! Yet not I, but through Christ in  
 plea, oh the chains are re - leased, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in  
 Him, when the race is com - plete, still my lips shall re - peat: Yet not I, but through Christ in

15 1. 2. 3. 3 4.  
 me. me! When the race is com - plete, still my lips shall re - peat: Yet not

22  
 I but through Christ in me! Yet not I but through Christ in me!

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

### January 7, 2024

**Worship Leader:** John Sundet  
**Greeters:**  
**Deacon in Charge:** Peter Benedict  
**Ushers:** Walter Mayo  
**Audio:**  
**Nursery:** 9:30:  
10:30 (*Worship*): Danielle Bolliger, Amy Bassett  
**Toddler Time:**  
**Coffee Clean-up:** Harmon Shepherding Group  
  
**Evening Audio:**

### January 14, 2024

**Worship Leader:** Sterling Harmon  
**Greeters:**  
**Deacon in Charge:** Jeff Edwards  
**Ushers:** Howard Craig  
**Audio:**  
**Nursery:** 9:30:  
10:30 (*Worship*): Rachel Embree, JulieAnne Edwards  
**Toddler Time:**  
**Coffee Clean-up:** Harmon Shepherding Group  
  
**Evening Audio:** *Shepherding Groups-  
No Evening Service*

## This Week at Church

Monday	6:30 PM	Women's In-Person Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Women's Zoom Bible Study
Wednesday	1:00 PM	Bible Study
	6:00 PM	Midweek Recharge
Saturday	7:00 AM	Men's Covenant Group
	10:00 AM	De-Greening of the Church
Sunday	9:30 AM	Bible Overview Class
	12:00 PM	Shepherding Groups

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COMING EVENTS

#### DE-GREENING OF THE CHURCH

We will be de-greening the church on **Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM**. We will provide coffee and treats so please join us as many hands make light work.

#### LADIES TEA & TESTIMONY

On **Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM**, we're having a Tea & Testimony at the church. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the clipboard on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. Consider bringing a light snack to share. Babysitting will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Ohlund or Debbie Goodale. This tea will be open to teens in high school.

#### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called our annual Congregational Meeting for **Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM** (if inclement weather that night, it will be February 7<sup>th</sup>). We will hear reports on various ministries of the church and hear a report on the 2024 budget. Please come and participate in this important part of our church life.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

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### DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

There are currently 2 men's discipleship groups who are open to new members. They both meet on Wednesdays, one at 6:00 AM and the other at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, or being part of a new group forming, please contact Pastor Will.

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

A Wednesday afternoon Bible study takes place at 1:00 PM at the church. We are beginning a new study in 1-2 Corinthians in the month of December.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Will at the church office (860) 742-7222.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

The next women's in-person Bible study will meet on **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM at the church.** We will continue our study of Romans. All are welcome. Please contact Debbie Goodale if you have questions.

The next women's Zoom Bible study will be on **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.** We will continue studying the book of Mark. Please contact Elizabeth Koopman ([e.koopman61@gmail.com](mailto:e.koopman61@gmail.com)) for the Zoom link.

### MIDWEEK RECHARGE

The next Midweek Recharge will be on **January 10<sup>th</sup>.** Please come and enjoy food and fellowship. This will be the only Recharge in December.

Please contact Collin Robinson (334.464.0142) or Pastor Will (860.742.7222) for any questions or if you have a desire to serve meals to others.

### LIBRARY ITEMS

There are various items from the library, such as tapes and videos, that are in the back Sunday School room, which are available for free to anyone who would like them. So, please take a look as soon as possible if you think you might want some of the items. If no one is interested, they will be disposed of.

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY WITH MIDWEEK RECHARGE

For a couple of years, we have been holding Midweek Recharge (MWR) twice a month, which has included a full dinner, a devotional, corporate prayer, and at times ministry for children and youth. Currently, Collin and Julia Robinson have been overseeing the most demanding work which is planning and preparing the dinner. They have done an excellent job and several members have also provided support. Though I have had oversight of the Midweek Recharge ministry, (which has included set up, devotionals, and planning), I am looking for someone to be the point person for this ministry. I am happy to work with them, help equip them, and provide appropriate oversight. We would love for this ministry to continue, and even grow. But there is a need for oversight and leadership. Duties would include:

- Plan and schedule the dates for Midweek Recharge.
- Work with the Robinsons in the planning of dinner.
- Scheduling men in the church to lead the devotional and prayer time (several men, including myself, along with certain elders and deacons have often led in this way and will be happy to continue).
- Work with others to set up the fellowship hall.

MWR has been a great ministry, and we desire for it to continue. If you're interested in providing servant-leadership in the above role, please see Pastor Will. Thank you!

### THANK YOU!

From our cleaning service:

Thank you so much for the thoughtful gift for my family! It truly brightened my day. Always thankful for everyone at church.

-Maria Flores

## *Notes for the Preaching of God's Word*

### *The Pillars of the Living Church*

Acts 2:42-47

**Main Preaching Point:** To be a sincere and growing follower of Christ, commit yourself to the biblical marks of the living church: learning the Word, caring for one another, worshipping the risen Christ, and bearing witness to the world.

- A Learning Community: Study
- A Caring Community: Fellowship
- A Worshipping Community: Praise
- A Missional Community: Evangelism

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Questions for Individuals, families, or small groups

Text: Acts 2:42-47

Title: The Pillars of the Living Church

**Questions:**

1. What was most important or applicable in today's preaching? Can you summarize the main message?

#### **A Learning Community: Study**

2. Is the Acts 2 church a solid pattern and example for the church in any generation? In what way(s).

3. Read Acts 2:42. Why was it the apostles' teaching that the early church committed themselves to? Was unique about them and their teaching? How was it connected to Christ?

- According to the sermon what does the word "devoted" mean? How would you describe your commitment to

continued growth and learning as a Christian disciple?  
What are your practices and devotional habits as it related to learning?

- Read Psalm 119:37. Discuss.

#### **A Caring Community: Fellowship**

4. Read v.42-46. What does the word "fellowship" mean? What does it *not* mean? According to the sermon and that of Scripture what do believers share *in*? What is it that unites them? And what are believers to share *out*? That is, what and how are they to give in order to love and serve one another?

- Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. Discuss the biblical principles around giving. And what are practical ways of showing generosity to our fellow Christians?

#### **A Worshipping Community: Praise**

5. Read v.46-47. What words and phrases capture the element of worship among these early believers? Why is corporate worship important? Why can't believers simply worship alone and dispense with public gatherings? Explain.

- Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Why do attend worship? What are some of the biblical reasons and motivations that ought to drive believers to public worship? Discuss.

#### **A Missional Community: Evangelism**

6. Read v.46-47. How do these verses reveal the relationship of the church to the world? What is the church's calling as it relates to its external mission to the lost? How great of a priority ought this to be for the church?

7. How does Acts 2:42-47 point us to the person and work of Jesus Christ? Explain.