

Announcements and Upcoming Events

May 2, 6 p.m. **Outreach dinner at the Union Fire Company**
Please see Judy Niederer or Gail Butterfoss if you are able to make a dessert.

May 6, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Community Wide Yard Sale.**
Please see Gail Butterfoss if you are able to make cookies, brownies or cupcakes for the bake table or if you are able to help the day of the event. We can use extra hands! We will be selling breakfast sandwiches, hot dogs and hoagies. Come support the 2017 Mission Team.

Capital Campaign:

Goal: \$75,400
Received: \$29,815
Pledged: \$16,250
Still Needed: \$29,335

Gloria patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be
— world without end.
Amen, amen.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!



Found in Israel-a-history-of.com

Session:

Class of 2017
Barbara Matlack
Randy Niederer

Class of 2018
Patti Manz
Tim Shaub

Class of 2019
Mark Niederer
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church
Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good
Worship Assistant: Patti Manz
Music Directors: Jon and Helen Eastburn

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*
Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*

Deacons:

Class of 2017
Judy Niederer, Secretary

Class of 2018
Gail Butterfoss
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

Class of 2019
Chris Manz, Moderator

April 23, 2017

THE **EXTRAORDINARY**

GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK of
REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION

at our former way of life, nor at the tomb, but to our Lord Jesus Christ, alive and victorious.



Call to Worship

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Easter has a very this-worldly,
present-age meaning:
Jesus is raised, so he is the
**Messiah, and therefore he is the
world's true Lord**
Jesus is raised, so God's new
creation has begun—and we, his
followers have a job to do!
Jesus is raised, so we must act
as his heralds, announcing his
lordship to the entire world,
making his kingdom come on
earth as in heaven!

N.T. Wright, Surprised By Hope

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Righteous God,
We bow in humility before you when we
catch but a glimpse of your glory and
honor. The prophets and saints of old
bowed low to the ground. We join the
Psalmist, who declared
Who may ascend the mountain of the
LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?
The one who has clean hands and
a pure heart, who does not trust
in an idol or swear by a false god.
We turn to you now for forgiveness.
Forgive our casual stance before you, and
our apathy of heart. We give you our
attention, devotion and trust. We turn to
you now for the blessing of knowing you.

...Let us pause for a silent time of personal
confession...

Let us worship God!
Christ is risen! **He has risen
indeed!** There are 7 Sundays in the
Easter Season. We continue the joy
and wonder that the empty tomb
caused the disciples long ago.
We continue our Extraordinary story
in Genesis today. Today's passage
is difficult and challenging. We
seek the Living God midst this story.
It was Lot's wife who looked back
when she was warned to run
forward. Today let us not look back



Order of Liturgy

Prelude
Call to Worship (below)
***Opening Hymns** (below)/ Prayer
Confession (below)
—call, prayer, assurance
*Gloria patri (back page)
Scripture (below)
Message
***Hymn of Response** (below)
*Apostles Creed (back page)
*New City Catechism (inside, bottom left-hand)
Announcements
Prayers of the People
Offering
Offertory: "Before the Throne of God Above"
*Doxology (back page)
***Sending Hymn** (below)
Benediction

*Please stand if able

Scripture

Psalms 124 (page 441)
Genesis 18:16-19:38 (page 12)
Acts 1 (page 770)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymns
Insert "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"
Hymn of Response
#358 "Because He Lives"
Sending Hymn
#359 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks!"

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Notes on Morning Scripture

Gen. 18:23 Abraham approached God. Who may approach God according to Scripture? Psalm 24, Daniel 10:12, Joel 1:13, Micah 6:6-8

Gen. 19:13 outcry against evil, compare Luke 18:1-8

Gen. 19:22 Zoar means small. Also found in Isaiah 15:5, where Moabites should flee. Important Middle Age city between Elath and Jerusalem

Gen. 19:24 burning sulfur is mentioned 11 times in the Bible: Here, 6 other Hebrew Scriptures and 4 times in Revelation. In Deuteronomy 29:23, this story is reiterated by Moses.

Gen. 19:37-38 Moab and Ammon both have long standing fused and conflicted relationships with the people of Israel. Moab (ites) are mentioned 199 in the Bible. Ammon (ites) are mentioned 204 times.

Acts 1:1 Theophilus also mentioned in Luke 1:3, the recipient of Luke's gospel and Acts of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:9-11 is the Ascension we refer to in the Apostle's creed

Acts 1:23 Matthias means 'gift of the Lord'. Some identify him as one of 70 in Luke 10. New International Dictionary of the Bible: "nothing certain is known about him after his appointment"

Web Link

<http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/ancient-world%E2%80%99s-largest-cemetery-identified-at-biblical-zoar-ancient-zoora/>

<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2008/04/The-Discovery-of-the-Sin-Cities-of-Sodom-and-Gomorrah.aspx#Article>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lksUJCFCaMo> a ten minute video accompanied with music and Bible verses from Genesis 19. Gives helpful maps, and provided interesting mountain scenes that show what looks like remnants of ancient buildings.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFaqBjwC_0 a forty minute you tube documentary called "Digging for Truth". Did not review the entire video, though the parts I did see were interesting, such as the mosaic tile map of the ancient world.

<http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/sodom-and-gomorrah.html> extensive overview of the biblical mentions of Sodom and Gomorrah throughout Scripture

<https://vimeo.com/209679702/58a88b1f9f?bblinkid=45119573&bbemailid=3744032&bbeirid=268183936>
Presbyterian Foundation video of the Reformation's 500th Anniversary

New City Catechism

A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>

Part 1: God, Creation and Fall, Law

Week 19 Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

Answer: Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.

To learn more about Question 19, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/19>

Editorial: The Patience of God

1. *Of Mans First Disobedience, and the Fruit*
2. *Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste*
3. *Brought Death into the World, and all our woe,*
4. *With loss of Eden, till one greater Man*
5. *Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat,*
6. *Sing Heav'nly Muse, that on the secret top*
7. *Of Horeb, or of Sinai, didst inspire*
8. *That Shepherd, who first taught the chosen Seed,*
9. *In the Beginning how the Heav'ns and Earth*
10. *Rose out of Chaos: Or if Zion Hill*
11. *Delight thee more, and Siloa's Brook that flow'd*
12. *Fast by the Oracle of God; I thence*
13. *Invoke thy aid to my adventrous Song,*
14. *That with no middle flight intends to soar*
15. *Above th' Aonian Mount, while it pursues*
16. *Things unattempted yet in Prose or Rhyme.*
17. *And chiefly Thou O Spirit, that dost prefer*
18. *Before all Temples th' upright heart and pure,*
19. *Instruct me, for Thou know'st; Thou from the first*
20. *Wast present, and with mighty wings outspread*
21. *Dove-like sat brooding on the vast Abyss*
22. *And mad'st it pregnant: What in me is dark*
23. *Illumine, what is low raise and support;*
24. *That to the height of this great Argument*
25. *I may assert Eternal Providence,*
26. *And justify the ways of God to men.*

These are the opening lines of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, first published 350 years ago. Milton brings forth the timeless message of God's mercy, goodness, patience and ultimate victory. We too, are to tell of the ways of the LORD to those around us.

Ultimately, God answered Abraham's request: there weren't ten righteous souls in the sin cities. But even in judgment, God displayed mercy. Lot hesitated to flee, and God's messengers interceded, and led to safety.

We too, are to be examples of the patience of God. Paul says as much in his first letter to Timothy.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. (1:12-16)

We too are to tell the ways of God to our neighbor. It isn't the other person (whoever that is), it is me: I am the worst of sinners—but God showed mercy to me, and God can show mercy to you! In giving praise to God through our living and serving, we join a triumphant song:

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (1:17)

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life
(offered in 4/23 worship by the congregation)

Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

At different times in my life, I have prayed to God. I've seen some answers, but other times I have not. Sometimes I feel alone. Why doesn't God help me?

Saddened in Stockton

Dear Saddened,

The story of Abraham's pleading, and the ultimate destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah provide insight into your wondering.

There is a fascinating verse in the story, where the LORD says "the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know". (18:20-21). The immediate image that comes to me is that God has his administrative staff taking care of the small stuff. And this case is a big one, so he goes to do his due diligence. This image is not correct, but the verse does fit in with God's incarnational approach to the world, and it fits with the limited freedom that humanity has been endowed with (limited in that it ultimately gives account to God). What I am suggesting is that perhaps, on some basic level, God doesn't seem to be helping you with some things because you have the freedom, responsibility and resources to take care of them yourself. But I would want to talk to you more specifically about why you feel that God isn't helping you.

When Abraham approaches God, he does so with a humble faith, one that keeps asking for God to show grace, and in his wrath, to remember mercy (Habakkuk 3:2). Abraham is able to approach God and ask. The good news is that God answers. We can always ask, and someday we will find that even the times where the answer was 'no' were ultimately for our good, and more importantly, for the glory of God.

In the destruction, there is an urgency expressed among the angels for Lot and his family. The angels say "Hurry!". "When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them." In eternity, we will see all the ways that God (and his messengers) helped us.

This story leads us to the importance of using our freedom well, and responsibly, for God's glory. It also reminds us that God is merciful and helps us.