

Announcements and Upcoming Events

The flowers are given by Bill and Evelyn Hart to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding of Glenn Hart to Melissa Garrison Wenner.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon to begin prepping dresses that will be sent to Karazim Ministries for distribution in the villages. If anyone would like to join us (no sewing experience necessary). Also, we are collecting pillowcases and material that can be used to make the dresses.

We are collecting toilet paper and paper towel rolls to be given to ARC to use for crafts.

Gloria patri

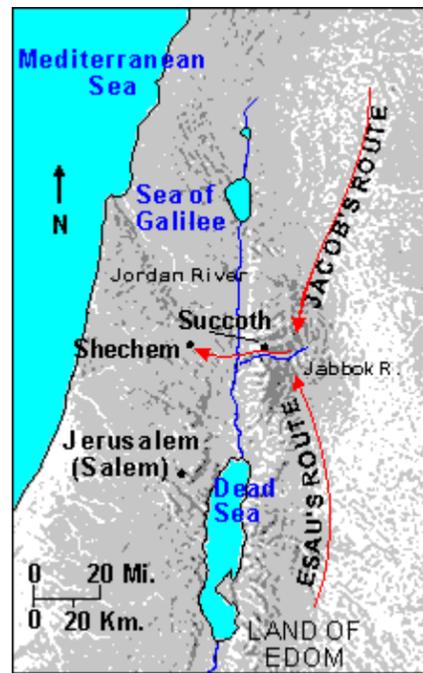
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be
— world without end.
Amen, amen.

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!



For your information, Bethel is located in between Shechem and Jerusalem. Bethel was where Jacob had first met God (Genesis 28).

Spiritual Food for Thought

What does it mean to be children and heirs of that man (Jacob)—crippled and blessed, bowed down and forgiven? All the answers must pass through the prism of the Crucified One. He is the one who knows fully about limping and blessing, about bowing down and forgiving. --Walter Brueggemann

Session:

Class of 2017
Barbara Matlack
Randy Niederer

Class of 2018
Patti Manz
Tim Shaub

Class of 2019
Mark Niederer
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

Deacons:

Class of 2017
Judy Niederer, Secretary

Class of 2018
Gail Butterfoss
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

Class of 2019
Chris Manz, Moderator

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church
Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good

Worship Assistant: Barbara Matlack
Music Directors: Jon and Helen Eastburn

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

August 27, 2017



Let us worship God! Our worship today is shaped by a classic Genesis story: Jacob's encounter with his brother Esau, and his wrestling with God. Having faced the Lord, Jacob is able to face his brother. Jacob sees God face to face, and lives. In the Acts narratives, Paul tells the Athenians about their statue "to an unknown God". Paul invites them to know the Lord, and to encounter the

grace of God through the One raised from the dead. Because of Jesus, we too shall behold the Lord and see him as he is (1 John 3:2). To God alone be the glory!



A view of a ford in the Jabbok River, where long ago Jacob crossed in his return home.

Call to Worship (Psalm 139:1-6)

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Prayer of Confession (Psalm 139:13-18)

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.

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



Order of Liturgy

- Prelude
- *Call to Worship (below)
- *Opening Hymn (below)/ Prayer
- Confession (below)
 - call, prayer, assurance
- *Gloria patri (back page)
- Scripture (below)
- Message
- Apostle's Creed
- *Hymn of Response (below)
- *New City Catechism (inside, bottom left-hand)
- Announcements
- Prayers of the People
- Offering
- Offertory: "I Bless Your Name"
- *Doxology (back page)
- *Sending Hymn (below)
- Benediction
- Choral Benediction: "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

*Please stand if able

Scripture

Genesis 32-33 (page 24)
Acts 17 (page 785)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

- Opening Hymn
- #33 "Immortal Invisible God"
- Insert "Psalm 139E"
- Hymn of Response
- #562 "Be Thou My Vision"
- Sending Hymn
- #684 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

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Notes on Morning Scripture

Genesis

32:1 Mahanaim means ‘two camps. Compare with verse 7

Vs 14: Both Esau and Jacob experience abundance. 400 men in Esau’s contingent, and Jacob’s gift of 550 animals. Both acknowledge they have enough (33:9, 11)

Vs 22: The Jabbok River starts in the hills of Gilead (see Genesis 31:25, which we read last week), and flows to the Jordan River (Israel’s eastern boundary)

33:4: compare Luke 15:20

Vs 17: later in Israel’s history, one of the annual feasts (still observed today) is called The Feast of Sukkoth, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles.

Vs 18: Shechem; in the narrative, both city and person. This is the second reference to the city, the first was in 12:6, with the Great Trees of Moreh located near Shechem. There are 60 references of the name in Scripture.

Vs 20: El is Hebrew for God. In Scripture, Elohim is often used (Including Genesis 1:1), which is the plural masculine of El--yet always used with singular context. Yahweh (or Jehovah) is Scripture’s proper name of God. Throughout Scripture, we will read of adjectives placed alongside El or Yahweh (such as here and earlier, in 22:14—Jehovah Jirah—“God will provide”)

Acts

17:18 Epicurean: Greek philosophy teaching that mental pleasure is the highest good, and was known in freedom from anxiety, fear of death and punishment from the gods

Stoicism: Greek philosophy also popular throughout Roman Empire, emphasized good works, life rooted in the logic of the natural world. Emotions were potentially destructive to behavior.

17:19 Areopagus: the city’s council of elders who gathered at the rock near the Acropolis, which the Romans called Mars Hill.

Web Link

<http://www.thrivingpastor.com/serving-each-other-through-forgiveness-and-reconciliation/index.html> Tools for living in right relationship

<http://www.jesuswalk.com/jacob/paintings-of-jacob-and-esau.htm> thorough collection of paintings of Jacob stories

<http://proverbs31.org/devotions/devo/why-i-stopped-praying-against-fear/> authentic words of wisdom

<http://podbay.fm/show/352660924/e/1265839619?autostart=1> sermon on Praying Your Fear.

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 2: Christ, Redemption, Grace

Question 34 Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God’s Word?

Answer: Yes, because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, also renews us by his Spirit; so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; so that we may be assured of our faith by the fruits; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

To learn more about Question 34, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/#34>

Editorial: The Face of God

I interpret the Mysterious Wrestler as God (there are different interpretations of who this person was). If you’d like a fascinating read, I would direct you to Walter Brueggemann’s Genesis commentary. Jacob gives us the sufficient clue that he had “seen God face to face, and my life was spared” (Gen. 32:30).

This idea of seeing God is an absolutely amazing idea, one far too big to fully grasp this side of eternity. Scripture speaks some amazing words on the idea. Several are listed with brief commentary.

“Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God” Ex. 3:6 He hides specifically after God identifies himself as God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This act is reverential, not inappropriate.

The Israelites are afraid to draw too close to the Holy Mountain upon which Moses receives the law. Exodus 19:21-25 and 20:18-20

“The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend” Exodus 33:11. This occurs when Moses enters the Tent of Meeting. Yet the same LORD tells Moses, who requests to see the glory of God, that “You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live” (Exodus 33:20 and 23)

Moses encounters the glory of God, and it transforms his face. Moses, when entering the Tent to speak with God, would unveil his face, but he kept it veiled before the people (Ex. 34:33). Paul later writes that we should not be like Moses, and let our transformed faces shine the Lord’s freedom (II Corinthians 3:7-18)

The Blessing to be given by the Priests includes this phrase: “May the LORD make his face shine upon you...may the LORD turn his face toward you” (Numbers 6:25-26)

Jesus Christ perfectly shines forth the face of his Father, “the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ” (II Corinthians 4:6). Paul reminds us that “then we shall see face to face” (I Co. 13:12).

The face of Jesus Christ, like his Father’s, is “like the sun shining in all its brilliance” (Revelation 1:16). The promise at the end of that vision is “They shall see his face” (22:4).

We are encouraged therefore, to love God today, because “though you have not seen him, you love him and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy” (I Peter 1:8).

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life (offered in 8/27 worship by the congregation)

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

Dear Tabby,

What are some healthy practices based on the Scripture raised in the Editorial? Since God’s face is glorious and holy, what should I do, or not do?

Thinking in Trenton

Dear Thinking,

Thanks for your question. You raise a really important point: the promises in Scripture regarding who God is, and how we will relate to God throughout eternity, in addition to being very holy and awe-inspiring, are also very practical.

First, Scripture’s commands lead to eternity, but are appropriate for the here and now. They shape the future, and the present!

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.
--James 1:22-25

Second, because of our future in Christ, we should avoid evil. No evil stands in the presence of Almighty God.

“Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry. But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.”
--Psalm 34:14-16

Third, since our future is fellowship with the Lord, we are to practice sincere relationship on earth. *“I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete”.*
--II John 12

Let us live before God by remembering God’s Word (as opposed to forgetting) through practice, by avoiding evil, and living in fellowship with God’s family. These practices are rooted in Scripture’s sure and certain promises: In Christ, we shall see God. We may draw close to God because of the Cross. We too, like Moses, might have friendship with God. If true, why wouldn’t we follow his Word, practice it together in community and avoid that which displeases the Lord.