

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2020



FCC...A GREAT CHURCH OF GREAT PEOPLE SERVING A GREAT GOD DOING GREAT THINGS!



HAPPENING:



**FACEBOOK LIVE - Go your Pastor's page: RICK JONES
WE WILL EMAIL A LINK SO NON-FACEBOOK USERS CAN JOIN US**

GREETINGS FCC FAMILY,

Isn't this wonderful?

WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT YOU CAN WATCH OUR FACEBOOK LIVE SERVICES BY CLICKING ON THE LINK TO THE LIVESTREAM. Each service has a different link so we will be sending that link via Text Message and Email 15 minutes before the service. YOU WILL JUST HAVE TO CLICK THE LINK AND YOU'LL BE IN!

REQUEST YOUR LINK
TEXT: 314-607-1424 to ask PR for your link.
EMAIL: rmjones58@gmail.com and give us your name and email for your link.

YOU MAY ALSO GO TO OUR WEB PAGE [WWW.FCCSTLOUIS.ORG](http://www.FCCSTLOUIS.ORG) TO GET THE LINK.

This evening we will take your song requests, and even have a chance for questions and answers! Don't miss FCC WEDNESDAY LIVESTREAM.

We've had 435 views of last Sunday Evening's service and 483 watched some or all of last Sunday Morning's service. Actually that's more than we've been having in church.

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THOSE WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH. We need \$2500 to end the month in the black with all our bills caught up. YOU MAY GIVE BY GOING TO OUR WEB PAGE AND CLICKING the PAYPAL LINK www.FCCStLouis.org or by going to PayPal directly and giving to FCCStLouisMO@gmail.com, or snail mail to 2969 N Lindbergh, St Ann, MO 63074. I would be glad to pick up your offering too.

I've been sorting through 23 years of flyers, letters, advertising, signs, promotional materials that we have collected over the years. It has been such a blessing to see how the Lord has sustained us and helped us over these years. Indeed "Through many dangers toils and snares we have already come!" But the rest of that song is equally true! "Tis grace that brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home!"

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5 "Hosanna Parade!"

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10 7pm
LIVING LAST SUPPER & COMMUNION SERVICE

RESURRECTION SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Sunrise Celebration 7am
Praise & Worship 11am & 6pm

THE LORD WILLING

I REMEMBER AS A YOUNG MAN GOD'S PEOPLE WOULD TESTIFY, "THE LORD WILLING I'M GOING TO..." At the time it seemed at best extraneous, at the worst an attempt at super-saint status.

Not so much anymore!

As I posted the plans for our Easter Celebration I thought, "THE LORD WILLING."

If this contagion that is sweeping around the world does not lift its grip soon we will not be able to meet together in the House of the Lord. **BUT YOU CAN BE SURE WE WILL BE CONNECTING TOGETHER ONLINE AND WE WILL PROCLAIM "HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED!"**

It is James that reminds us that our times are in God's hands.

Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow.

For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. James 4:13-15

If you had told us on January 1st that there was a great pandemic that would sweep around the world and by March the United States of America would be forced to close businesses, schools, sporting events, theaters, and even churches, we would have reluctantly thought it possible but highly improbable! The stock market that rose from \$18000 to \$29000 over the past 4 years, fell back to \$18000 a few days ago. Who would have dreamed?

While we know that this pandemic was spread from Wuhan China, we know that its origin is actually hell. It is sin that warped the genetics of God's perfect creation and thrust pain, suffering, and death into our world.

A few weeks ago one bright inquisitive Sunday School girl asked, "Why doesn't God kill the devil?" It's a great question! We know that God will certainly destroy our arch enemy. The Lord promised that the seed of the woman would crush his head! (Gen. 3:15). And in Revelation the great deceiver is cast into the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

But why is it that our Nemesis is left to tempt and torment God's creation? I can only speculate. Confidant that God is not only perfectly holy, perfectly good, and perfectly loving, I am sure that he will remove satan when it is best for us. I can rest in the truth—He knows! He knows what is best for me. He knows what will strengthen my faith and perfect my love. He knows what will bring Him Glory...and in the final analysis that is all that really matters! Not my glory, my comfort, or my will—but I live for His glory, in His favor, and His will!

In the mean time I am sure that He will keep His promises.

...He will work all things together for good to them who love God (*And we know all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28*)

...He will not leave us or forsake us (*And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8*)

...**He will sanctify even our deepest distress to purify our faith!** (That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1:7). **If our trials make us bitter and not better it is evidence that we have not yet meant, “not my will but thine be done.”**

...**He longs to teach—if we would learn!** (For the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Titus 2:12-14)

...**Our Creator is our Savior!** (*But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. ² When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. ³ For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior* Isaiah 43:1-3)

ers.info/coronavirus/

GMT+0.

[Report coronavirus cases](#)

Now Yesterday Search:

Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Tot Deaths/ 1M pop
China	81,218	+47	3,281	+4	73,650	4,287	1,399	56	2
Italy	69,176		6,820		8,326	54,030	3,393	1,144	113
USA	60,063	+5,207	808	+28	379	58,876	1,307	181	2
Spain	47,610	+5,552	3,434	+443	5,367	38,809	2,636	1,018	73
Germany	35,740	+2,749	186	+27	3,540	32,014	23	427	2
Iran	27,017	+2,206	2,077	+143	9,625	15,315		322	25
France	22,304		1,100		3,281	17,923	2,516	342	17
Switzerland	10,537	+660	149	+27	131	10,257	141	1,217	17
S. Korea	9,137	+100	126	+6	3,730	5,281	59	178	2
UK	8,227	+150	433	+11	135	7,659	20	121	6
Netherlands	6,412	+852	356	+80	3	6,053	582	374	21
Austria	5,588	+305	30	+2	9	5,549	28	620	3
Belgium	4,937	+668	178	+56	547	4,212	474	426	15
Norway	3,034	+168	14	+2	6	3,014	57	560	3

FROM THE WORD:

PSALM 90

¹² So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

¹³ Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.

¹⁴ O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.

¹⁶ Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

¹⁷ And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE QUESTION:

Is Christ real to me?

REMEMBER TO PRAY:

--For the SALVATION OF THE LOST

--NEW FRIENDS OF FAITH.

--PRAY FOR THOSE AFFLICTED WITH COVID 19, and other FLUS

--LOGAN LEWIS

--AL LOCKHART is continuing to strengthen.

--BILLY BARNES

--NEIL GOODRICH
--HAROLD BLACK
--GRANNY FARMER'S FAMILY
--SID OLIVER
--MARK BELLAMY
--JOHN BIONDO is home! That's an amazing answer to prayer.
--RUTH GEORGE & SHERYL V
--BECKY GOBER at BARNES downtown.
--NORMA GILLHAM at the loss of JD
--PRAY FOR THE YOUNG FAMILIES THAT NEED GOD'S BLESSING.

MORE

MORE

MORE

MORE

MORE

MORE

MORE



WWW.REACHINGFORTH.BLOGSPOT.COM

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 17:1-11

1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:
2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.
3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.
4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.
5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.
6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.
7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.
8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.
9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.
10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

REFLECTION:

It is known at Christ's "High Priestly Prayer." Like the High Priest in the Temple at Jerusalem, Jesus ceremonially washed, then prayed for himself and the people. Unlike the High Priest of the Old Covenant, Jesus would offer *himself* as the sacrifice for the sins of the people. (Read Hebrews 7:26,27).

The Last Supper had ended. Jesus had washed the disciples' feet. Now He prays. His intercession is recorded for us in the 17th Chapter of John's Gospel. We see seven specific requests that Our Lord made of His Father:

...keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, (John 17:11)

...that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. (John 17:13)

...not that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (John 17:15)

...Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.(John 17:17, 18)

...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, (John 17:21)
(this is repeated in John 17:11)

...that the world may believe that You sent Me. (John 17:21)

...that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.(John 17:24,25)

These are wonderful prayer requests. But it is our Lord's preface to the requests that captures our attention. Jesus said, "*I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*" (John 17:4) It's not hard to see that He glorified God. But this, "*I have finished...*" is a hard saying.

Jesus healed, but He certainly did not heal every sick person in the world, or for that matter even in Israel. Yet He said, "*I have finished ...*"

Jesus restored homes and mended hearts, but He did not restore and mend every one of them on earth. But He said, "*I have finished...*"

Jesus did not convince every skeptic, win every heart, and save every lost soul living in His day. But He said, "*I have finished...*"

How could He say that he had "finished?"

The key to the text lies in the context. (It always does.) "*I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*" (John 17:4). Indeed He had "finished" all the work that His Father had given Him to do to that point. Each day He finished what His Father asked of Him.

He didn't do everything, He did that something that His Father willed that He would do each moment.

There is nothing that pierces the soul of Christ's disciples like His cry from the cross, "*It is finished!*" But we knew that He would, "*finish*" that is. He always has. He always does. And He always will.

So the God-man finishes. But what of God's men, can they finish? Shortly before the axe man severed his neck, the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*" (2 Timothy 4:7). He too finished. He did not finish my course. He did not finish your course. He finished his course.

I find here both consolation and motivation. Consolation that I need only accomplish what the Lord asks of me. And motivation to know and to do His will "moment by moment."

PRAYER: Father in Heaven, Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost! "Hallelujah! Thine the Glory! Hallelujah! Amen!" We find great comfort and joy in the knowledge that as our Lord prayed, He prayed not only for His disciples but for those of us who would one day be His disciples. We pray that we will finish the work you have for us today. May we listen for your instructions. May we act in time and on time to do your will. And may we one day hear you say, "well done, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen. "*Our Father, &c.*"