



Love God, Love People and Serve Together

“Which Thief Would We Be?”

February 25, 2024

As we continue our journey through the Words to Live By, we step into a situation that we have all read through before during lent. In the midst of his journey to the cross, Jesus is met with two individuals that He has not met before. They are both sentenced to die a death of public humiliation and suffering on their cross for crimes we have no idea they have committed. All we know is that they were chosen to be a part of the story of Christ’s final hours.

Recognize that all four Gospels tell of the presence of the two criminals that were led to Golgotha that same day as Christ, but only the Gospel of Luke allows us to have an intentional viewpoint of their character before their death. Luke 23:39-42 allows us to see into their stories as Christ encounters them on the worst day of His life. Luke writes:

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” **40** But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? **41** We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” **42** Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (Luke 23:39-42)

Two very different portrayals of these characters who were also pledged to die beside the Son of God. One whose heart was still hardened or calloused and represented the world who was ready to see the Son of God destroyed and ridiculed on the cross. The second, a criminal who understood his place and the ramification of his actions, yet still recognized the authority of Christ and humbly asked in his dying moments to just be remembered. One thief cursed God and almost expected Christ to give him something he did not deserve in freedom from his situation. The other thief realizing he had done wrong and recognized the authority of Christ, even through His suffering, and in humility requesting that Christ would just remember him as a dying man fulfilling his debt through death.

Many times, I think through which thief I would represent. I know the simple and easy answer would be that I would be the second thief. Recognizing my faults and failures and in humility coming before Christ and asking for Him to remember me. Unfortunately, there are many days in which we all would fall under the category of the first thief. We are so demanding of Christ in asking Him to fulfill our desires and our needs in the way we want them to be fulfilled. I could easily hear my voice in the words spoken by the first thief, but maybe not using the same words. My words would sound more like, “Jesus, you know my heart and my needs, why am I going through this situation? You know my desires. Why are you not fulfilling my prayers and helping me?” Sound familiar?

I know that this may seem very critical today as we look at the second teaching from Christ on the cross, but I honestly believe that many days we could have the attitude of either thief. One day we are humble and asking for forgiveness, and the next day we are demanding that our request be fulfilled now. What a difficult challenge to face each day, but one to intentionally draw us closer to God. During this Lenten season, may we pause and reflect on the words Christ spoke to help us live out our lives as He gazed at us from the cross.

In His grip, Jason



MEMORIAL GIFTS

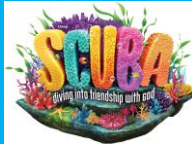
In memory of **Oz White** by Zane Draughton

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Vicki Martin** by Judy & Don Davidson

The Chancel Flowers are given in honor of our 64th wedding anniversary by Freddie and Gib Richardson.

THANK YOU



Thank you for providing paper towel, wrapping paper, and other cardboard tubes. We now have plenty to make a spectacular coral reef!

EASTER LILIES



If you would like to order Easter lilies, the cost will be \$15.00 each this year. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 10th. Please fill out and return the Easter lily form located outside the Sanctuary.

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR!



This Sunday, the second Sunday in Lent, our Chancel Choir will bring a powerful message acclaiming the unconditional, unchanging, and eternal love that is poured out on all of creation; especially those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Our anthem for this Sunday is Dan Forrest's profoundly beautiful "And Can It Be?" based on a Charles Wesley hymn. Charles Wesley was a prolific hymn writer. From the time of his conversion in 1738, Wesley wrote an average of two hymns a week for fifty years; between five and six thousand hymns in his lifetime. It has been said that Charles Wesley composed his hymns to bring theology to the heart, where people experience God's love in profound ways. After completing his studies at Oxford, Charles volunteered to travel to Georgia, a new colony in America, as a missionary. His experience did not go well and he left America ill and depressed. Finding himself in a spiritual crisis, he started attending meetings led by Moravian Christian, Peter Boehler. On Sunday, May 21, 1738, Charles Wesley wrote, "I now find myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in the hope of loving Christ. I saw that by faith I stood." On Tuesday, May 23, Wesley wrote in his journal "I began a hymn upon my conversion." There is no definitive proof, but many historians believe the hymn written in response to his conversion was "And Can it Be?"

"And Can It Be?" by Dan Forrest
And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued Amazing Love! How can it be that Thou my God, shouldst die for me? He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace; Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race; 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me. And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own. Amazing love, how can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me?

Romans 5:8
But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God's Great Peace to You!
Diana B.

***ATTENTION ALL YOUTH PARENTS!!!**

- Sunday School 10 a.m. in the Basement
- 211 Faith Connection Sundays @ 5-7pm in the Basement!
- Youth Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. @ Ambassadors of Christ
- Prayer Breakfast 7:00-7:30 a.m. -Chick-fil-A - Whittlesey Rd.
- We will conclude our **True Love Waits** Emphasis this Sunday Night.
- Youth Praise Band Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm
- Spring and Summer dates will be out **SUNDAY!** Pick up a brochure!



THE BRIDGE COLLEGE MINISTRIES

If anyone would like to help support our Bridge College Ministry through providing food for these amazing students each week, please contact Jason and let her know you would like to help. Secondly, if you would like to give funds towards our weekly meal, you can give through our normal giving options and earmark it for Bridge College Ministries. We are having between 20-25 college students on Thursday Nights at 7:30 pm. Thank you for your continued prayers for God to open doors into these students' lives.

In His grip, Jason

Family Night Supper

Wednesday, March 6
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Covered Dish Dinner

We will be having family night suppers on the first Wednesday of every month starting in March. Everyone is welcome!

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR CONNECTION

Attention All Young Families, Singles & Young Adults

We had a GREAT start with our new class. One of our major focuses is providing ministry opportunities to those who are seeking community and connection. This is an opportunity for those who may be a young family, a single at church or a single adult to come and have a conversation about how we can meet your needs and launch new discipleship ministries.

Please join us Sundays in the Ministry Center/Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. **THIS SUNDAY** to continue the conversations as we prepare to **LAUNCH** into the new year together.

In His grip, Jason

HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, March 27

Lunch & Devotion

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Soup and Salad Lunch & Devotion

Church will provide lunch. If you would like to make a donation for lunch, you may do so.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Lunch & Devotion

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Soup and Sandwiches
&

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Italian Dinner

Cost: \$7.00 per person

\$25 max per family

Deadline to make reservations for lunch and dinner is Monday, March 18th. Call the church office or email Teresa @ tdorminey@wynntonmethodistchurch.org.



COFFEE STATION VOLUNTEERS
February 25, 2024

New Seekers

BACKPACKS OF GRACE



Backpacks of Grace is an amazing opportunity that we have to minister to children in our area. Last semester, we served 103 children from Wynnton Arts Academy on a weekly basis. We are always in need of fruit cups, individually packaged snacks (goldfish crackers, pretzels, scooby-snacks, pudding cups, etc.), individually packaged breakfast (cereal, oatmeal, or grits), or financial contributions so that we can purchase these items. Please consider helping.



Time to start over on our collecting! We had a great Packing Party last October with 277 boxes packed and turned in. For February, we are focusing on collecting **washcloths and toothbrushes**.

If at any time you find a good deal on anything we collect, please let us know so we can let others know where to find that item.

Keep in mind, these items are **not** allowed: soap, toothpaste, candy, liquids, camouflage, and tiny toys/balls.

Thanks, Pam and Deanna
Spreading God's love to children everywhere.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

All of the staff have new email addresses which are as follows:

jwade@wynntonmethodistchurch.org
gtincher@wynntonmethodistchurch.org
bwilson@wynntonmethodistchurch.org
tdorminey@wynntonmethodistchurch.org
musicdirector@wynntonmethodistchurch.org
modernworship@wynntonmethodistchurch.org
mderbypreschool@gmail.com

Please check your spam or junk folder in your email to ensure that you haven't received something from the church.

WYNNTON ARTS ACADEMY

On Friday, March 8th, Wynnton Arts Academy is celebrating Read Across America week by inviting in guest readers. If you are willing to sign up for doing this, please know the books will be provided and you will be given a specific time to be there that day to read to a group of students.

Contact Shirley Richey at 706-332-6890 (cell) if you are willing to be a part of this very important event for the students at WAA!!!

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Week 7



The encounters with Jesus continued to draw people from far and wide. As we look at our readings this week, we are able to watch as Christ begins to encounter the traditions of the day as He engages the Law of the Feast of Tabernacles and recognizes the reality of obligation verses celebration. Jesus steps into this moment where every Jewish male was to attend and began teaching about who was the true authority... the rituals or their true obedience to following God. Enjoy these encounters that continued to cause the religious leaders of the day to begin plotting to derail the ministry of Jesus.

Feb. 25 th	John 7:1-13
Feb. 26 th	John 7:14-24
Feb. 27 th	John 7:25-44
Feb. 28 th	John 7:45-52
Feb. 29 th	John 7:53-8:11
Feb. 30 th	John 8:12-30
Feb. 31 st	John 8:31-41

PRAYER TIME IN THE CHAPEL

Every Wednesday
(Drop in)

12:00-1:00 pm
5:30-6:30 pm





We're looking for volunteers for the Modern Worship Service. If you play an instrument or sing, feel free to join us at our practices every Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. in the Ministry Center.



Please use the QR code to sign up to volunteer to serve in the Modern service.

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Sue Rogers | Jennefer Spell |
| Aubrey Walker | Frank Feagle |
| David Woolbright | Richard Holmes |
| Pam Feagle | Shelley Montgomery |
| Betty Garrett | Robert Garrard |
| Jeanine Cotton | Sabrina Hart |
| Michelle Foote | Beverly McDaniel |
| Kaye Hill | Abraham Cook |
| Lynn Christenson | Jaleen Welch |
| Casey Campbell | Rachael Casar |

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

- Family of Frederick Woodruff
- Family of Clara Russell
- Family of Lexy McRae
- Family of Bob Lowery

BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER

WE NEED YOU! to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of March. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday.



OUR STEWARDSHIP

2-18-24

General Fund	10,171.00
College Ministries	300.00
Loose Offering.....	112.00
Missions.....	50.00
Backpacks of Grace	100.00
Other Income	10.00
Sunday School.....	55.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Network	150.00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 26 Seth Harp
- 27 Gloria Toelle



OUR ATTENDANCE

2-14-24

Ash Wednesday	75
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2-18-24

8:30 a.m.	42
9:00 a.m.	20
11:00 a.m.	137
Sunday School.....	106

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 25

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Modern Service - Ministry Center
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for adults, youth & children
10:00 am Young Adult Discipleship Meeting -
Ministry Center
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting - Alpha Building
5:00 p.m. 211 Faith Connection - Basement

Monday, February 26

- 10:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Bible Study - Home of Beth Hendrickson

Wednesday, February 28

- 9:30 a.m. Women of Joy Bible Study - Alpha
Building
12:00-1:00 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)
4:30-5:30 p.m. Youth Praise Band Rehearsal
5:30-6:30 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)
6:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study - Ambassadors of Christ

Thursday, February 29

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Alpha Building
9:45 a.m. Backpacks of Grace
7:30-9:00 p.m. The Bridge College Bible Study - Basement

Friday, March 1

- 7:00 -7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast & Jesus - Chick-fil-A -
Whittlesey Rd.
5:00-8:00 p.m. Modern Worship Practice - Ministry Center

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Nursery

8:30 am – 12:15 pm
Infants – Age 2
First Floor Grimes Building

Sunday School

9:45-10:50 am
Pre-K – Fifth Grade
First Floor Grimes Building



Children's Church

11:00 am – 12:00 pm (after Children's Sermon)
3-year-olds – Fifth Grade
First Floor Grimes Building
**Parents, please make sure to check in with our
registration system (hallway or Children's Center)

WYNNTON SAFETY SQUAD February 25, 2024

Team 3: Rob Harbison, Bruce Boretzky,
Bennett Massey, Harry Lubin

OUR DEPLOYED CHURCH MEMBERS AND FAMILY OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Bryant Giang
Adam Walker

If you have a deployed family member and you would
like them added to our list, please call the office.

SUNDAY'S SERMON

Words to Live By Week 2:
Today, You Will Be With Me In Paradise
Luke 23:39-42

8:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Dr. Jason Wade

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies March 1-3
Dr. Jason Wade 770-289-4039