

March 27, 2022

The season of Lent is one of my favorites in the church calendar. Maybe it holds some extra significance because I didn't grow up with it. Or maybe the mood of Lent just fits my personal spiritual practice best. The nature of Lent lends itself to reflective, contemplative practice such as centering prayer, meditation, *visio divina*, and similar exercises. I would like to share with you one of my favorite Lenten meditations (at least I consider it appropriate for the Lenten season) which was written and performed by a group known as The Liturgists. It begins by quoting scripture:

"Meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless". It draws the attention of the listener to the scale of the universe, and our very small place within it. "There's this Carl Sagan quote about a photo of earth taken from Voyager on its way out to deep space", the speaker says, "that echoes the sentiments of the Kohelet, the Teacher, in the ancient Wisdom book called Ecclesiastes."

Here's the Sagan quote: "Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there-on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."

So here we are on this pale blue dot, our time so short, our lives so brief when compared to the scale of the universe. Everything and everyone is a vapor. Here for a few moments, and then gone. This sobering thought can be depressing, or it can be absolutely freeing. We can either go the way of many around us and ignore this fact, medicating and numbing ourselves in avoidance of the truth of our humanity; or maybe there's another way: we can embrace it. We can recognize our humble place in this universe. We can recognize the silliness of human arrogance and empire. And perhaps as a result, we can learn to appreciate and fully experience the moments that we have as the gifts that they are.

The Kohelet, the Teacher in Ecclesiastes, shows us the vanity of human toil and worry. Another teacher came and taught about the Vapor like this- "**Come to me all you who are weary, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**" So what are you so worried about? What causes you stress? Because it's going to the dirt like everything and everyone else. It is Vapor, mist, smoke, Hevel. This doesn't have to be depressing, in fact, it might even be liberating. Finitude, after all, is actually what makes life sweet. Christmas time can be such a wonderful and magical time of year because it only happens once a year- not in spite of it. Parents treasure their moments with their young children at home precisely because they know those moments won't last forever- not in spite of that truth. So take a breath. Recognize your frailty. Recognize that the things that feel so weighty and wearisome in the back of your mind right now, are nothing but Vapor. Feel your breath. Recognize your lungs keeping you alive without your ability to make them work or not. Your heart is beating. Your cells are working together to keep you alive. And it's all magical and mysterious and beautiful. Life on planet earth is a gift, and you only get it for as long as you get it. And then the match gets blown out. So set your hearts, not on things of earth, not on the vapor, but let go. Fully open your heart to both the Gift and the Giver. The Mystery. The Beauty. That in which we live and move and have our being. That which we call God- The Oneness who holds the Vapor together- who somehow brings meaning into the meaningless.

Pax,
Greg



The Chancel Flowers are given by the Pathfinders Sunday School Class in honor of Linda Twiggs on her birthday, March 31.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Milton Woodruff** by Pat and Bruce Kelley

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Lynda & Bennett Massey** by Bobby Porch

In honor of **Dorothy & Joe Batastini** by Bobby Porch

EASTER EGG HUNT, LUNCH, GAMES, AND MORE!

Easter Bash

Saturday, April 9th
12-2 PM

Wynnton UMC
2412 Wynnton Rd, Columbus, GA 31906

EMAIL MGROSS@WYNNTONUMC.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 2022 Easter Bash will be April 9th from 12-2 p.m., and we will need plenty of volunteers to pull this off. Some particular areas of need are for the set-up crew and manning the stations. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please see the sign-up sheets posted in the hall leading to the foyer. You can also email mgross@wynntonumc.org. Thanks!

EASTER LILIES



The cost of Easter Lilies will be \$15.00 each this year. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 3rd. See the attached form.

EASTER CANDY DONATIONS

Please bring CANDY-FILLED PLASTIC EGGS or INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY (no chocolate please) for the children's egg hunt and place them in the bin in front of the library.

EASTER OFFERING

This year's Easter Offering will be divided between three missions. One third of the offering will go to the Annual Conference mission, a third to Wynnton Neighborhood Network and a third to Wynnton Neighborhood Housing. This offering is above and beyond your usual giving.

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

Isaac Watts was born in the second half of the 17th century. He is known as the father of English hymnody. He is credited for writing over 750 hymns. During that time, it was the practice of the Church of England to almost exclusively sing Psalms from the Old Testament during worship. Watts believed that this form of worship lacked the New Testament Gospel truths. It was his desire to write hymns that greater reflected the experiences of the people; hymns that relayed the message of the Gospel. As a response to that desire, in 1707 he published *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*. In his preface to this publication Isaac Watts writes: "There are many deficiencies of Light and Glory that our Lord Jesus and His Apostles have supplied in the writings of the New Testament; with this advantage I have composed these Spiritual Songs." Some of the well-known hymns from this collection are: *Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed, I Am a Soldier of the Cross, O God Our Help in Ages Past* and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. In addition to the original hymn, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, there are dozens of solo and choral arrangements that still exist today. This hymn, based on Galatians 6:14, is rich in theology, poetic grace, powerful imagery and remains one of the great hymns of our faith today. The Chancel Choir will sing Fred Mallory's arrangement of *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* this Sunday. Mallory's treatment of the text in each verse is outlined by the use of stark accompaniment, rolling rhythms, minor tonality and finally, broad rich chords.

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arranged by Fred C. Mallory

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died; My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down; Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

The last line of this hymn is so profound and sums up our call to faith so beautifully; *Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life my all!* Amen!

Galatians 6:14

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

God's Great Peace to You!
Diana B.

WYNNTON UMC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the 2022 College Scholarship. The scholarship is for members of Wynnton pursuing any field of study at an accredited school of higher learning. Applications along with guidelines for the scholarship are now available in the church office. All applications must be received in the church office no later than **May 1, 2022**. For further information, please call the church office at 706-324-2424.

The wife of our former pastor, David Blalock, is undergoing difficult medical treatments. Prayers, cards and letters are appreciated and may be sent to:

Patsy Blalock
5249 Windmill Pl
Evans, GA 30809

WYNNTON ARTS ACADEMY NEEDS

1. School supplies--teachers need glue sticks, pencils, markers, notebook paper
2. Cookie decorating supplies: sprinkles, small candies like M&Ms, or Skittles, small containers of icing, plastic spoons, small paper plates.
3. Bags of individually wrapped candy for the end-of-school-year celebration of positive behavior rewards.

Please deliver to the door of the school or leave in the blue bin at church for Shirley Wright to deliver.

Children's Programs

The nursery is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through age 3 is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for K-5th Grade is on the 2nd floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday school is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Plans are being made for our Packing Party this year! In October, we will fill our boxes for children around the world.

If you prefer to fill your own box, that is fine OR you can do both!

Different items will be requested each month to bring to the church. A bag will be in each SS class for these items. There will also be a bin in the hall for items. The goal is to pack 250 boxes this year!

In March, we are collecting toothbrushes (in their package with no toothpaste) and bars of soap. We will continue to collect hair brushes, plain ball caps, hair bands & large combs.

In a message from Samaritan's Purse: Praise God for shoebox gifts that were collected last year. Thank you and all Glory to God!!

Items Collected so far:

61 Bars of Soap

50 Hair Brushes

57 Toothbrushes

11 Ball caps

6 Wash Cloths

Keep up the good work! Each one bring one of each. Please. Would love to pack 250 boxes!!

Flower Delivery

Rachel Plummer

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 April. 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.

WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Traditionally, March is Wynnton's month to collect food to fill the pantry at the Network. Grocery bags with a suggested list of items needed have been placed in the church. Among the suggested items are canned meat, vegetables, beans, tomato products, fruit, spaghetti noodles and sauce, peanut butter, jelly, and soup. Please take one of the bags and fill it with your donations and then return it to the church. Your continued generosity will fulfill the ministry of the Network to help those in our community who are in need. The tremendous response to "Souper Bowl" Sunday was greatly appreciated, with approximately 400 items donated to the Network. Thank you for your support

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Through Old Testament stories and mission projects, our children have been learning who God is, how He loves us and is always with us, and how we are to love God and love others. Children in Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. on the second floor of the Grimes building.

Youth Sunday School



Youth Sunday School meets in the Basement from 9:45-10:45 AM Sunday mornings. Students in 6th through 12th grade are welcome to join us for coffee, donuts, and topical discussions of God's word. Eliza Daffin leads us in March. If you haven't been in a while, now is the perfect time to lean back in! For info or if you're interested in volunteering with the youth, contact Rob Harbison, r.harbison@mchsi.com, (706) 289-3082.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexy McRae
Glenn Killough	Kathy Draughon
Matthew Allen	Dorothy Robinson
Bobby Porch	Kerry Mess
Lillian Cox	Jennefer Spell
Lynn Christenson	Jim Accordino
Beverly Ragsdale	Gwen Bolin
Jean McGlamry	Joyce Hawkins
Aubrey Walker	Margie Spurlin
The Meacham Family	Denise Hill
Jimmy Kent	Patsy Blalock
Daro Miller	Linda Osborne
Jake Wood	

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Rubye Screws
Family of Stella Jambon
Family of Marjorie Croft
Family of Sarah Crawford
Family of Jeanette Bunch
Family of Wanda Jones
Family of Carole Mitchell
Family of Brad Trim
Family of Lenore Ash
Family of Larry Googe
Family of Barbara Stevenson
Family of Charles Ward

March 27: Matthew 22:23-46, Numbers 22:1-40,
Song of Solomon 2:8-3:5
March 28: Matthew 23:1-12, Numbers 22:4123:26,
Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1
March 29: Matthew 23:13-39, Numbers 23:27-24:25,
Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3
March 30: Matthew 24:1-31, Numbers 25-27,
Song of Solomon 6:4-8:4
March 31: Matthew 24:32-51, Numbers 28-29,
Song of Solomon 8:5-14
April 1: Matthew 25:1-30, Numbers 30-31, Job 1
April 2: Matthew 25:31-46, Numbers 32-34, Job 2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

27	Kylie Powell
28	Frances Sue Anthony, Sarah Holden, Aislyn Lipp
29	Ben Smith, Bill White
31	Billy Ragan, Linda Twiggs
1	Martin Lotz
2	Caroline Ferrell, David Johnson, Wes Kelley

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 27

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth &
Children
9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class - 2nd floor Grimes
Bldg.
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
Streams Live on Facebook
11:00 a.m. Children's Church - Grimes Building

Monday, March 28

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Library

Tuesday, March 29

6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting - Alpha Bldg.

Wednesday, March 30

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Alpha Bldg.
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Prayer Chapel & Book
Study - Alpha Bldg.
6:30-7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal - Bell Room
7:15-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 31

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Alpha Bldg.
9:45 a.m. Backpacks of Grace

OUR STEWARDSHIP

3-20-22

General Fund.....	17,331.00
Backpacks of Grace.....	83.33
Endowment.....	180.00
Sunday School.....	47.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Housing.....	83.33
Wynnton Neighborhood Network.....	83.34
Mission trip Tiajuana.....	350.00

SUNDAY'S SERMON

Parable of the Sower
Luke 8:1-15
Rev. Greg Harrison

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies March 25-27
Rev. Greg Harrison 478-955-1577

WYNNTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Easter Lilies



NAME OF DONOR: _____

Lilies given:

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

You may pick up your lily after the 11:00 a.m. service on April 17.

Please fill out this form and return to the church office along with your payment of \$15.00 each.

Return No Later Than
Sunday, April 3, 2022
Thank you.
