

MARCH 29, 2020

WELCOME

We count it a privilege to have each one in attendance today. May you experience God's presence as you worship with us!

A Word from the Lead Pastor:

In the "truth is stranger than fiction" category: the patron saint of resisting epidemics is named St. Corona. She was martyred as a teenager eighteen hundred years ago; her relics have been preserved in Germany since AD 997. Her shrine is being prepared for display once the pandemic has passed.

From a Biblical perspective, "saints" were never venerated or worshipped. In the Scriptures the word "saint" mostly referred to the living not the dead. The word "saint" comes from the Greek word hagios, which means "consecrated to God, holy, sacred, pious." It is almost always used in the plural, "saints." According to the Bible, everyone who has received Jesus Christ by faith is a saint. In the Bible, saints are called to revere, worship, and pray to God alone.

The prayers of the saints in Revelation 5:8, especially as represented by incense in the context of temple imagery, should be understood to take the role of incense in the temple, which was to offer up a sweet aroma to God and to symbolize prayer. The prayers of the righteous are pleasing to Him.

Psalm 141:2 describes this aspect of prayer perfectly: "May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice." (Psalm 141:2).

The prayers of the saints had been noticed by God and were awaiting their fulfillment. I encourage our church family to pray during this present crisis we're going through. God will hear and will answer according to Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and [a] mighty things, which you do not know."

Here are some ways we can pray during this crisis:

- For the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.
- For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.
- To protect all medical workers from being infected as they treat patients and to give them strength and encouragement and that more resources will become available (test kits, masks, etc.;)
- For God to give wisdom and guidance to all our government leaders, especially to President Trump and Vice-President Pence.
- For God to make provision for all people and businesses affected from the closing of businesses.

- Pray that people will turn to God so that He will rid them of their fears and anxiety and grant them peace. I'm quite sure the Holy Spirit will bring to your mind other ways in which we can pray and express God's love to a hurting world.

April & I miss seeing all of you and we pray for you daily! Please keep us in your prayers as well. We trust that we can gather again soon worship to and fellowship!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Our Nation
- Unsaved Loved Ones
- Revival in our Church
- Peace of Jerusalem
- Becky Bricker
- Dennis Newsome (Pastor's Brother)
- Catherine Pentz
- Sue Spessard
- Albert Keyser
- Joey Kline
- Bob Bowders
- Corona Virus Victims
- World Missions Director (Greg & Sandie Mundis) sick with Covid-19
- Ron Maddux (sick with Covid-19)

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS:

Jean Smith
Vonnie Ashway
Beulah Myers
Dot Yeakle

SHUT INS:

Mary Florence
Donna Wagaman

RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS:

Dorothy Kuhn
George West
Albert Keyser
Theresa Keyser
Louise Rotz
Ben Newcomer
Arlene Pentz
