

Jesus prayed over the city of Jerusalem, begging that it see with a new lens the history of God's efforts to change it. They rejected God's loving embrace while killing prophets and rejecting those who brought God's message of needed change.

Change is often something we fear. What will we be asked to give up? How will it impact the things that make us feel safe and comfortable? If we admit wrong here, doesn't that open us up to be wrong in other places?

While wrestling with just those questions the religious leadership of Jerusalem announced that it just made more sense for "one man to die for the nation." It was the only way they could see to maintain their place and position.

I watched, with you, the unfolding of senseless tragic murders this week. I am sure that those weeping over graves of loved ones slaughtered in the injustices of the week will take little comfort from political positioning, the colorful internet memes created to support one side or the other. The fact is that they will take no comfort from the messages from pulpits or gravestones by well-intended religious folks who hawk their own agendas wrapped in noble or religious overtones.

No, words don't repair broken hearts. Unless our hearts are as clearly broken, our eyes shedding the same tears of sorrow over the senseless waste while our arms reach across the barriers of bigotry and bias to embrace those who are so different, the divisive ripping only becomes more profound.

We are, as God's people, more of a problem than the solution if we do not look to the change happening in us before others. As God's people we remain broken, wrapped in old thoughts that we believe keep us safe. We must be bold to ask that God remove them.

Grace and Peace,

Carl



St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

July 10, 2016

My morning prayers began with this: *Help me this day to be patient, loving and compassionate with those who see the world so differently that they are driven toward violence and despair. Calm my soul that my first response might be to calmly listen, soothe and embrace rather than load my guns, rally my peers and erect more barriers within me. Help me to see through the emotional frustrations that bring about irrational behavior in the best of us, like the rest of us and see what drives the hurts and fears. Help me, like my Jesus, to pray and weep and pray again over peoples and cities who kill rather than listen, reject rather than accept righteous efforts, and so love what they have had that they reject good things sent from God simply because they don't have a familiar sound. Drive from me, from my friends and from my enemies the fear, bigotry and selfishness that prevent us from standing arm in arm, side by side over the graves of those lost to violence while our minds race to justify our favorite positions, agendas, and slogans. Remove such things in me, O God, that I might point the way to Jesus for others. Don't simply forgive me, but please I beg... Change me.*

I know some of you pray with me in the prayers I post, so allow me to explain a bit about why this is such an important prayer.

St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
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St John, KS 67576

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
Afternoon Service—1:15 pm
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
Terry Sallee, George Shelton
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel
TREASURER: Richard Breensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR JULY 10, 2016

SONG LEADER: Richard Breensing
GATHERING SONG: No. 71—As the Deer
WELCOME: Orrin Feril
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 63:1-5 (Steve Potter)
SONGS: No. 15—Step by Step
No. 576—Honor Medley
-No. 577—We Bow Down
-No. 578—We Will Glorify (vs 1, 2, 4)
-No. 579—Praise the Name of Jesus
No. 68—Give Thanks
PRAYER: Chris Mansel
SONG: No. 147—I Stand Amazed
COMMUNION: Stan Aldrich
Ben Sizemore
Teddy Gingrich
Fred Johnson
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 716—Sing to Me of Heaven
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 904—Have You Been to Jesus? (vs 1)
PRAYER: Joe Cornwell

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again! Please stay for our potluck lunch today.

SILVER MAPLE CAMP

These are the summer youth sessions scheduled.
Scholarships are available—see Tom or Richard.

- July 13 (Day Camp: Ages 6-8)
- July 10-16 (Junior Camp/Session 1: Ages 9-13)
- July 17-23 (Senior Camp/Session 2: Ages 13-18)
- July 24-30 (Group Camp/Session 3: Ages 9-18)

Go to www.silvermaplecamp.com to register.



SUNDAY LEISURE HOMESTEAD DEVOTIONALS

The 9:30 am Sunday devotionals at the Leisure Homestead here in St John will be cancelled through the rest of the month of July. These will resume in August.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A graveside service for **Dan Hampton** is planned for Monday, July 18th, at 10:00 am near Great Bend. More information later.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Steve Potter July 16

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Betty Schneewis—scheduled for open heart surgery July 12th at Heart Clinic in Wichita
Darlene Stimatze—recent back surgery
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother)
Fred Johnson—eye improving
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - at home under hospice care; His wife, Sheryl, is dealing with out-of-control diabetes
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - having breathing problems; His wife, Kathy, may have lung cancer
Bonnie Thornburg (Marilyn's daughter-in-law) - having serious health problems
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rugan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Gary Hornbaker
Marci Klug (Joe & Lisa's daughter)—high risk pregnancy; currently doing well; expecting in August
Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - brain cyst
Brent Monroe (Joy Monroe's grandson; Marilyn's great-grandson)
Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer
Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - leukemia in remission
Pati Waters Risley—stroke; rehab at home
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
John Laudick (Marla's brother-in-law)
Jonathan Batten – cancer
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Myron Breensing (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

OUR SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to the family of **Frances Taylor** (Meagan Feril's grandmother; Denise Bailey's mother), who passed away yesterday in Oklahoma.