

reality in heaven, a place for his throne where I could walk by and know all is well.

While I am not saying that God does not punish the evildoer and reward the righteous, I think the focus of both earlier approaches is inadequate.

God, existing outside of time, is not worried about the future, there is only now. His desire is for us to know him, relate to him, and exist alongside him. As Jesus told the woman at the well, it isn't about which mountain or location but about you. God wants you, now. His relationship with you is now. His care for you is now, while you struggle not after you survive.

Jesus, God with us, made it clear to his disciples before his ascension that he wasn't leaving us alone. His Spirit would live with each of us, our bodies being his temple. His Spirit empowers our journey and constantly works to shape and strengthen us. We are not alone, for Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age.

Presence is my goal. I want to walk along with God now. I want to recognize his presence now. I want to be his presence in the lives of those I am around now. I want them to be conscious of the aroma of Jesus any time I am there.

For me, I'll take Emmanuel... he is all I want.

Grace and peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other

*St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
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Flying to the Rock

St John Church of Christ

March 5, 2017

When the birth of Jesus was announced by heavenly beings, his name was Emmanuel. This is undoubtedly my favorite name for Jesus because of the meaning of the name, God with us.

There was a time in my walk with God that I responded simply because I sought to escape the "fires of hell". During that time, I understood God to be harsh, to be feared, and seeking to eliminate a certain segment from existing eternally.

Later, I began to think more of the "streets of gold, pearly gates, and heavenly choirs", an existence where reaping the rewards of missing out on the fun stuff on earth finally "paid off". Heaven, for me at that time, was the place I could wipe my brow and relax in relief that I finally made it. I thought of God as finally becoming

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich, Terry Sallee,
George Shelton, Tom Turner
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril
TREASURER: Richard Brensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR MARCH 5, 2017

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 103—He Has Made Me Glad
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Colossians 3:12-14 (Chase)
SONGS: No. 681—More Holiness Give Me
No. 166—He's My King
No. 702—Fellowship Medley
-No. 703—I Love You with the Love of the Lord
-No. 704—Bind Us Together
-No. 705—A Common Love
PRAYER: Richard Brensing
SONG: No. 176—Lamb of God
COMMUNION: Gary Hornbaker
Chris Mansel
Ben Sizemore
Ned Marks
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 546—Til the Storm Passes By
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 909—There's a Fountain Free (vs 1)
PRAYER: Fred Johnson

(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.

WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

- Adult Bible Class at 7:30 pm
- Youth Group at 7:30 pm at Carl's house

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Destiny Mathwich—March 5 Orvalee Aldrich—March 11

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Steve & Anissa Potter—March 7

WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD

Ladies—Be sure and register for the upcoming Women Walking with God conference on April 22 in Wichita. Reimbursement for the conference fee and one night motel room is available for any of our ladies—please contact Richard. See more information on the website: <https://womenwalkingwithgod.org>

CALVIN CHAPMAN AT EASTWOOD

Today and tomorrow Calvin Chapman, minister for the church in Faith, SD, will be at the Eastwood Church of Christ in Hutchinson. He will be doing a mini-series on foundational truths from the early chapters of Genesis. This evening, after a light supper served at 5:00 pm, there will be two sessions, at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Then tomorrow (Monday), there will be a light supper at 6:00 pm, then two more sessions, at 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Several in our church family here at St John have known Calvin for many years and can attest to his heart and love of God. This would be time well spent if you can attend.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING HERE

Please make note that the Early Childhood Screenings will be held here on Tuesday, March 7, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. They will make use of all the classrooms and other locations in the building.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - Leukemia; waiting for a stem cell transplant in Houston via MD Anderson. Prayers are requested
Greg Barlage (Baylee Sizemore's cousin, who lives in Wellesley, MA) Leukemia; has received a stem cell transplant; now going through chemo & radiation
Jonathan Batten—ongoing cancer treatment; undergoing stem cell transplant
Micaela Garcia (Alex's mother; neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) aggressive breast cancer
Brent Monroe (Marilyn's great grandson) - infection
Marilyn Thornburg's grandson, Timothy—health concerns
Betty Chlumsky's son, Mike—recent pneumonia
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - cancer; concluded radiation treatment a week ago
Rod & Cris Seidel in Pratt (friends of Richard & Shelly) - as Cris is treated for her cancer
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - improving health
Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) and his wife, Kathy
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rugan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – on Hospice Care at Leisure Homestead in Stafford
June Cornwell—Kenwood Plaza
Vic Staub—Kenwood Plaza
Phyllis Staub—on Hospice Care at Kenwood Plaza
Laura Wyatt—on Hospice Care at Kenwood Plaza

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org