



THE LINK

LINKING GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, EACH TO THE
OTHER, TO CHRIST JESUS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD

PASTOR'S NOTES

PASTOR JAMES CARLSON

My precious sheep:

I am writing this newsletter as our nation is in turmoil. Protests are spreading across the US in the wake of the death of George Floyd. These protests have reached Salt Lake City, and some have turned violent. Our nation is divided. How can we be united as Americans? Personally, I don't believe we will ever achieve true and lasting unity in America (or in any other nation for that matter). I do believe, as Christians, we should support justice and equality for all American citizens. We should listen sympathetically & empathically to other people who differ from us in race and socio-economic status. But even with our best efforts, I don't believe we will achieve true unity and peace. I'm not being pessimistic. It's due to our sinful nature.

My new sermon series for the summer of 2020 is the book of Ephesians. Do you know what the main theme of this book is? It is unity! True and lasting unity can only come about through the church of Jesus Christ and it's based upon the work of the Trinitarian God. Now I don't mean to suggest in the foregoing that I am going to get political in our reading of Ephesians. Every pastor struggles with finding the right balance in engaging our current political discourse. If you feel I am doing a poor job in either direction, let me know by phone or email. I will listen. My intention with the book of Ephesians is simply to look at it as we would any other biblical book. First, to look at it in its original context. Then, to apply it to our walk with Christ today. To allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us through Ephesians concerning its spiritual RICHES. The riches we have in Christ is a key theme. But the most salient theme of Ephesians is unity.

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THE MISSION OF CCC:

"WORSHIPING GOD, GROWING,
SPIRITUALLY, SERVING OTHERS,
INVITING FRIENDS"

**All Church Services and Meetings "in person" are canceled until further notice. Please check out our Facebook page to watch the worship service live 11 AM on Sunday.

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CONT'D...

Let me explain. Ephesians begins (from 1:1-2:10) by explaining and celebrating the fact that we as Christians have been united with God through the atoning work of His Son Jesus Christ on the cross.

Ephesians speaks of our salvation in Christ as vast riches that we have IN HIM (Eph 1:3; 2:7).

This is the vertical dimension of unity. First and foremost, every human being has the need to be united with God (to be reconciled with God).

Because of our evil nature (the flesh) and because of the sins we have committed we are divided against God. Being united to God through the gospel is the only hope of ever being united with our fellow man (think here the Double love-commandment: FIRST love God; THEN love your neighbor). This is why I believe all attempts at unity in this world according to secular governments and organizations will never achieve true and enduring harmony. It's because there's no accountability. As Christians, we have accountability to God in our duty to be united with our fellow man on account of our salvation experience of being united with Him – of being born again into God's family! Ephesians is a Trinitarian book. We have been united with God through the gospel due to the fact that the Trinitarian God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) has worked in unity for our salvation. We will see this in Ephesians. First, from eternity past, the Trinitarian God is united; then we sinful human beings are united to this Trinitarian God through faith. Then, God desires that we strive for unity in the church, which consists of Jew and Gentiles – God's new humanity IN CHRIST

(Eph 2:11-3:21).r



"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1

Ephesians chaps 4-6 consists of various admonitions to unity in the church. In 4:1-6, the word "one" occurs six times alone, thus emphasizing God's desire for His people to be united. Let's face it: there's division in the church as there is in the world. Christians get angry, hold grudges, harbor unforgiveness, divide and leave churches. Most of Paul's letters were written to divided churches.

Nothing's changed in 2,000 years.

There's division in families too – between spouses, with children, and at work with our bosses. Paul addresses these relationships in Eph 5:21-6:9 and stresses mutual submission as key (Eph 5:21). The source of disunity in the family, in the church, and ultimately in every human relationship is the unseen world of spiritual darkness, which is why Paul ends Ephesians with the famous armor of God passage (Eph 6:10-20). Scripture says plainly, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Eph 6:12).

How can our world ever arrive at true unity among men and women when it fails to even acknowledge this existence of the world of demons, let alone their influence on human beings?

This newsletter is just a taste. But can you now see how unity is a theme that runs like a thread (beginning with Eph 1:10) that ties the whole epistle of Ephesians together? I am excited to embark on this journey with you as we walk through the book of Ephesians, verse-by-verse. Walk is a fitting image, as this metaphor is used in Ephesians to describe our relationship with God. Therefore, my title for this sermon series is: "Walking with the Trinitarian God as ONE."

Grace and Peace.

A Little Kindness

Edward S. Murphy

A little kindness parts the clouds for sunshine
Just a little opens the gate for reflection
A smile is the moment's response to joy
An indication for whom is taking notice
Kindness is an inner expression for confidence
Kindness disputes the disparity of guarded care
What else can reach this pitch by other means?
To enhance the passage of some wayside traveler
Kindness is the overflowing of impounding conviction
Aware of some assistance for a passing need
Bringing together the pause of mutual concern
For a little consideration for a little happiness

Stardust

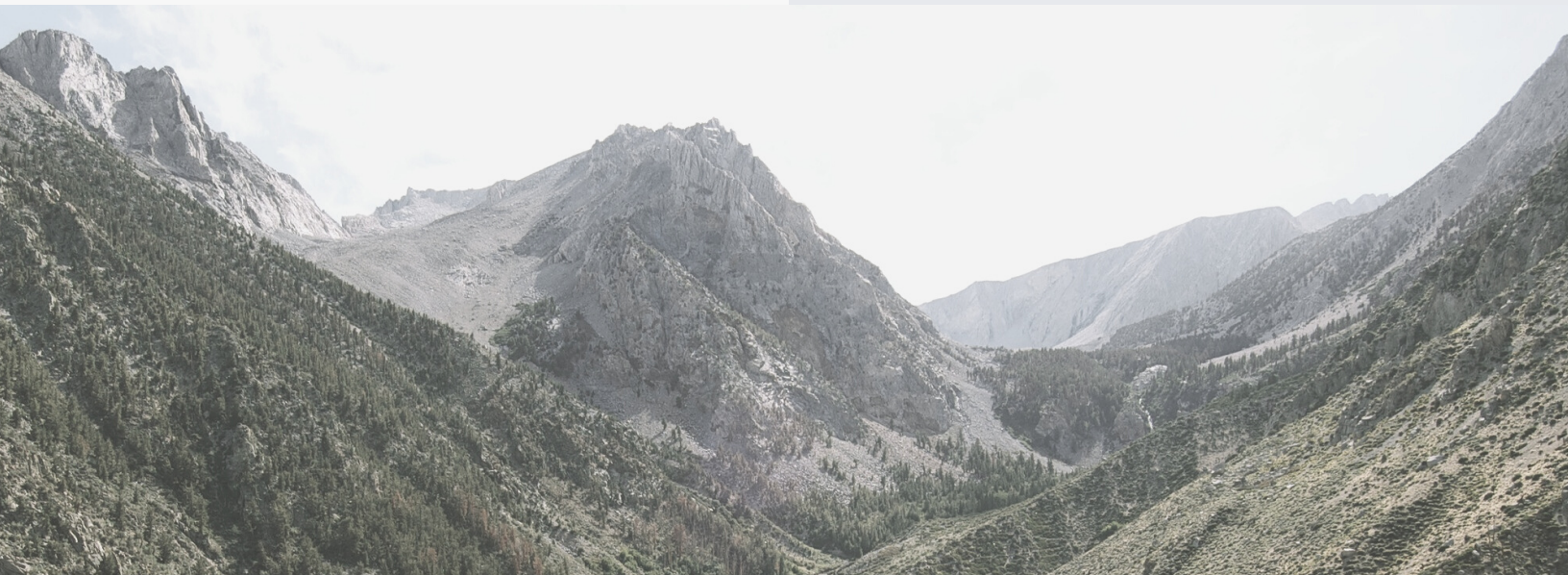
Dianne Ingle

Eons ago...
the dust collided,
the gases exploded,
...and His Light appeared.

With God, we soar to great heights,
reaching for the stars
under the canopy of space,
in a wonderland of celestial grace.

The maker of each galactic nursery,
He gives birth to every star.
He is there in every molecule,
draped in the silky-ribbon of the
Milky Way,
woven into the very fabric of time
and space.

Thank you God, for the night sky...
for the breathtaking splendor in each
stellar array;
for the wisdom to embrace the Light,
...and the imagination to dream
of the celestial splendors of the night...



HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

BIRTHDAYS

- June 6th: Savannah Birr
- June 7th: Kathy King
- June 9th: Linda DeGroot
- June 10th: Jake Umbriaco
- June 10th: Marge Roberts
- June 11th: Patricia McKay
- June 12th: Dennis Branham
- June 14th: June DeCaria
- June 16th: Ayuba Yarmah
- June 18th: Barbara Tucker
- June 21st: Sandy Wood
- June 26th: Richard Loomis
- June 28th: Mary Jo Elwell
- June 29th: Bob Brandler
- June 29th: Chuck Sanborn
- June 30th: Colin Warnshuis

CLASSES & STUDIES

Classes/Groups for Spring:

For the health and well-being of our congregants, classes held at the church building are postponed until further notice.

Remote studies, facilitated via ZOOM are as follows:

- The Measure of a Man on Thursdays at 7pm. A men's group led by Chris Morin (Cd_morin@hotmail.com).
- A study through **Psalms** on Tuesday's at 7pm. A women's group led by Shari Boehmer (shari_coffeebeanqueen@msn.com).
- **The Twelve Steps for Christians** on Monday's at 7pm. Open to everyone. Led by Richard Axmann (richardaxmann@comcast.net).
- A study through the book of Ruth on Wednesday's at 7pm.
- A group for everyone led by Pastor James (jamescarlsonsr@gmail.com).
**This class is facilitated via the church's Facebook Page.*

Directions:

When you sign up to be part of a group, you will email the group leader. Then, they will send you an email inviting you to join their small group. This email will include a link that you press on and, voila- you can join. It will ask you to run the program on your computer, and after a couple clicks, you'll be in the chat room. If you have questions about how to use this, contact your group leader or Pastor James (626-476-5543) or the church office (801-825-1115).

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

MINISTRY NEWS

- Rocky Mountain Care Center Ministry

Please Come join us every Friday at 10:30 AM for a half hour of song and a message from the speaker that day with patients. ***Canceled until further notice.**

Any questions you may contact Eileen or Dennis Richards 801/825-3471.

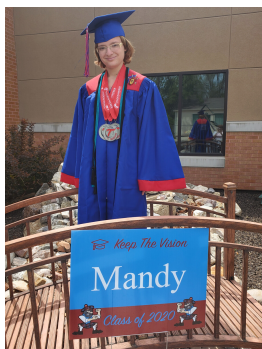


Join us on June 7th for a drive-in church service!

It will be Communion Sunday, so you can bring your own or we will have prepackaged communion cups, so we can do communion together. The Church will be providing lunch (Hot dog & Chips) for all who are interested. We are taking all precautions to be safe. We would love to see your smiling faces! Praise the Lord!

We will be in the East Parking lot and the overflow if needed and weather permitting.

Please RSVP with how many people and cars will be attending so we can plan for parking and food requirements.



Congratulations Graduates

We congratulate Mandy Arguello who is graduating from Ben Lomond High School, class of 2020!

If you would like to send Mandy a card, please send it to the church and we will make sure she gets it.

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

PRAYER CONCERNS

June 2020

Ronald Branham, Kevin Branham, Sue Carlson, Edith Warnshuis, Kaylin Terry, Kathy Knighton, Mildred MacDonald, Eric Palmer, Lynn McCarthy, Pat Call, Linda Manning, Jamie Richards, Stuart Simmons, Jean Varner, Bob Roberts, Mike Mann, Matt Tobey, Travis Jeffery, Mark MacDonald, Edith Aleman, Barrett Wellington, Ervin Herdt, Bill & Marte Hazelwood, Evie Guzman, Dennis & Naomi DeGroot, Marilyn Simon

Our 75th Church Anniversary Celebration has been postponed until next year.

All Church Services and Meetings "in person" are canceled until further notice.

Please check out our Facebook page to watch the worship service live 11 AM on Sunday.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thess 5:16-18