

Are these just platitudes for a nice bumper sticker to make us feel better or is this the truth of the Son of God declaring the way to have real peace? Which way do you respond to this promise of Jesus on a regular basis?

The steps Jesus took to bring peace began with the incarnation, it began with His birth and birth is a messy experience, but such is real life. Jesus said in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." I love Jesus because he didn't sugar coat anything and He wasn't talking about the cold and flu in this verse either. Jesus was telling His disciples "matter of factly" He was going to die, alone, because they were going to desert Him. But since Jesus held all the pieces to the puzzle of their lives He also knew they would believe Him and they would follow Him and they would need the words He spoke to them because their faith would bring upon them very difficult times. The angel declared at Jesus' birth, "Glory in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased." Without peace we cannot please God. Which is why so many are without peace and peace, though it is sought after, is so hard to find. Peace necessitates faith which is a giving entirely of yourself over to the full submission of God. The disciples had no idea how their lives would turn out. If they knew in advance all the difficulties which lay ahead would they have had the wherewithal to face it? Would Mary have been able to handle years' worth of pending decisions all at one time while just trying wrap her heart and mind about birthing the Son of God? Seeing ahead is not best for us but developing a life of trust in the one who forgives us is the best tool. Let me repeat Isaiah 26:3, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you because he trusts you." And close with Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." I pray the peace God has for you is demonstrated in your life of peacemaking and forgiveness.



If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one, please see the order form in your worship guide. All proceeds will go to Youth Missions & Camp.

Tupos

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Upcoming Opportunities

- Dec 16th** Caroling & Christmas Party
Meet at church @ 2pm.
Don't forget 'White Elephant' gift.
- Dec 22nd** Prayer Night
7:00 PM at the church
- Jan 5-6** Workday/Lock-in
- Jan 19-21** ReVerb

If you have chores to be done at home, the Tupos students are ready to work!

You can Rent-a-Youth on Saturday, January 6th.

They'll raise money for camp and you'll be chore-free!

It's a win-win!

RENT
A
YOUTH

If you're attending the Passion Conference, the remainder of your balance is due.

WELCOME!

We are in need of four families who are willing to open their homes to our Jr/Sr High School students during the weekend of DNow, January 19-21, 2018. If you would like to host these students, please get in touch with Marc for more details.

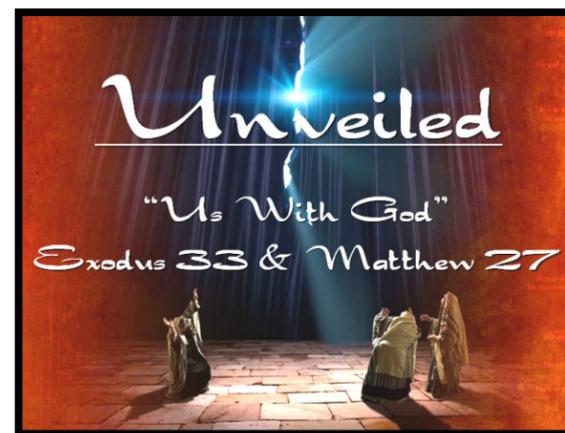


WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

Morning Worship Service

- # 77 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Born That We May Have Life
- # 85 The First Nowell
Gift of the Magi - Handbells
Adore
- UNVEILED - Exodus 33 & Matthew 27
- # 82 Emmanuel

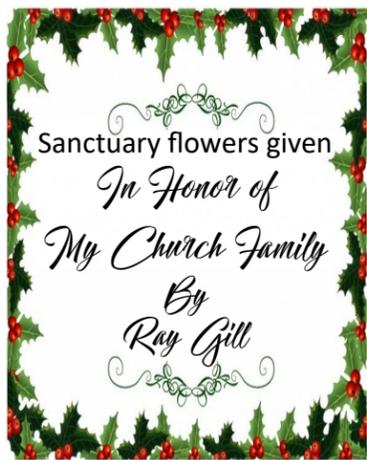


Evening Worship Service

- # 79 Blessed Be the God of Israel
Invocation & Welcome
- # 95 Go, Tell It on the Mountain
- # 88 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Let There Be Peace on Earth - Handbells
- Worship Through Testimonies & Prayer
- # 102 The Birthday of a King
WHEN GOD SAYS WAIT (PART 2) -
Psalm 130:4-5
- # 98 I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

One of the most common themes for anyone regardless of worldview or religious or philosophical stance is the desire for peace. There is something wired within every human being which screams for peace and says something isn't right in the world. Diplomats and politicians legislate for peace, groups of people advocate for peace, armies fight for peace (kind of an oxymoron), and there is even a volunteer organization called the Peace Corps whose mission statement is "make the most of your world" and promote world peace. So why is it so many want peace and yet there seems to be no peace? And conflict continues on a personal, familial and national scale? Because, at the root of the issue of peace is still a selfish desire for each person, family, group, or nation to want peace the way they want peace. We still have a desire to be in control of the way peace is negotiated and to ensure it is "fair". Mainly that it benefits my core belief system. To say you want peace but then to declare the terms of such peace is counterproductive which is why peace is so hard to forge. Because there is but one way to have peace and it is through forgiveness. Forgiveness is two-fold, it is each of us being forgiven by God and each of us understanding forgiveness so that we also forgive. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." "But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." "Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

Thus we have peace with God and peace with others. The Hebrew word for peace is "shalom" and it simply means: to be made whole, or to put back together, to have contentment. It seems like life is like a puzzle we are trying to put together, fitting all the pieces in, trying one which looks close only to find out it doesn't fit just right, it is forced and so we must keep searching for the piece which fits, so we go back to the pile of pieces. The problem is, most of the time, we look at a pile that doesn't have all the pieces. Have you ever put a whole puzzle together only to find out some pieces were missing?! Here is the reality of your life, all the pieces you need are not on the table right now. Our life is not meant to be a sort through it kind of life. Our life is meant to be centered on God who has all the pieces and to seek Him so He can hand us the next piece of our puzzle. You see, this way God's picture of your life develops exactly how and when God sees best for each of us. Isaiah 26:3, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you because he trusts you." Unfortunately for us this takes faith, trust, patience and obedience when we prefer to make our own decisions our way in our time. We have to decide ourselves if we really believe Jesus when He says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



To My Church Family,
Thank you for your prayers and concern for me while I was in the hospital.
Love in Christ,
Jackie Barker

Happy Birthday!



*Happy Anniversary to
Winston & Linda Smith
On December 13th*

December 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Advent: Peace</i> Senior Adult Luncheon	11 Stewardship Meeting 6p	12	13 Business Meeting 7p	14 Meal Delivery: MaryAnn Wilson	15	Tupos Caroling & Christmas Party
<i>Advent: LOVE</i> 11am Christmas Musical 6:30pm Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant	18	19	20	21 Meal Delivery: Sue Mannery	PRAYER 7 PM Tupos	23
<i>Advent: JOY</i> Candlelight Family-led Lord's Supper Christmas Eve 4:00pm - 6:00pm	26 Happy Birthday Jesus!	26	27	28	29	30
31 SUN	HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 House & Grounds Meeting 7PM	3	4	5	6 Lock in A YOUTH
7 Guest Speakers Shannon & Elizabeth Bradley	8 7pm Deacon's Meeting	9	10	11 Meal Delivery: Linda Smith	12	13

Surely there can be no greater joy than that of saving souls.
LOTTE MOON
New Hope's Goal: \$6500

Senior Adult Luncheon Today
Following the AM service.

Join us December 17th At 11am As our choir Presents: **wonder AND glory**
A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE FOR CHRISTMAS

An Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 17th at 6:30pm

All children who would like to participate should be in the sanctuary at 5:15pm.

COUNTING COMMITTEE - DECEMBER 2017
Johnny Trammell, Alma Durrance, Debbie Wheeler

WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Sundays
9:30 A.M. Media Center Open
9:45 A.M. Sunday School - Education Building
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Sanctuary
Kids' Church K-5
6:30 P.M. Evening Worship - Sanctuary

Wednesday
5:00 P.M. Women's Bible Study
6:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Live (TUPOS)
G.A.'s, R.A.'s, Mission Friends - Kids Bldg.
Women's Bible Study
Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study - Ed. Bldg.

USHERS OF THE WEEK
Talmadge Albritton
Dewey Bennett
Bill Jernigan
Steve Smith

DEACON OF THE WEEK
December 10-December 16
Adam Bunch 673-0206
December 17-December 23
Kord Robertson 781-5383



If you're visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor packet in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.
We're so glad you're here!

December 31 Evening Service
New Year's Eve At the Creek
Robertson's Camp

Sunday Services	Wednesday Services
SS Enrollment	Adult Bible Study.....8
Children's Church 16	Students.....18
Nursery 25	GA/RA (elementary).....36
Morning Worship 129	Mission Friends (pre-s).....11
Evening Worship 102	Nursery.....5
	Women's Study.....14
	Leaders.....15
	Total.....107

Giving Record

Tithes & Offerings	\$7040.00
Designated	\$3651.00
Budget Needs Each Week	\$7056

1999 State Road 64 East - Wauchula, Florida 33873
(863) 773-2101 - www.newhopewauchula.com

Rev. Christopher M. Bishop - Senior Pastor - 781-5572 (Cell)
Rev. Marc Pollard - Student Pastor - (318) 286-5032 (Cell)
Rev. David E. Radford - Minister of Music - 781-9675 (Cell)