

#### WELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Lord.

If you are looking for a supportive, Bible-based church family, we believe you have found it at Westworth. You are always welcome to be a part of the warmth and loving nature that is shown here . We have a place for you!

If this is your first visit here, please honor us by filling out a visitor's card found on the back of each pew. Any prayer requests may also be made on the flip side of the card. You may hand it to any member, place it in the contribution plate when passed, or simply leave it in the pew for us.

During the service we will celebrate communion. Communion is not only about Jesus' death, but his resurrection and triumph over death and sin. His resurrection is our source of hope that God will fulfill his promise of eternal life through Jesus the Christ.



# Today from the Pulpit FELLOWSHIPPING WITH ONE ANOTHER

Reading: Romans 15:1-7
Speaker—Max Pratt

GOD'S UNIQUE FELLOWSHIP

A UNITY THAT BLESSES

SHARING OUR FELLOWSHIP

# JESUS IS COMING SOON

He said it. I believe it. But what did he mean by soon? The final words of Revelation were penned somewhere in about 90 AD. Jesus said through that inspired writing, "I am coming soon." And he said it more than once. It has been nearly two-thousand years. Why did James tell us in his letter: "The Lord is near." It is set in the context of our being watchful and ready for the return of our Lord.

The current world events have given rise to more speculation that we are living in the end times. Hopefully, not too many will make all kinds of predictions about these things and what God has planned for the return of Jesus. The Scripture is still declaring that no one knows the hour or day. The return will be unexpected. It will be like a thief coming at night. Even so, the prediction was that the Lord's return was going to be soon.

The apostle Paul wrote as if Jesus would return while he and some of those he wrote to would be still alive. So, the expectation then was that the Lord's return was at any time. That I believe is the purpose of the Lord setting in our hearts and minds that He is coming soon. For every generation of Christians, we live every moment with the anticipation of the Lord's coming back.

The reason for this is to keep us watching and waiting, being ready for the Day of the Lord. The soon isn't for the eternal God to measure the time for his return. It is for keeping us faithful and ready, having our hearts sprinkled clean. Jesus made it plain that we do not know when so we must be alert to his coming. "Keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come....So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Matt. 24:42,44

If you are wondering about the when and the soon, well, he told the apostles it really wasn't for them to know the dates and times set by the Father. He is coming, so: "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life....Hold on to what you have until I come,....To Him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna.....He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death...I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown...."

"The Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."

"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

## **DECEMBER EVENTS**

**Saturday, December 9—White Elephant Gift Exchange 6:30 pm—**If you have not joined in this fun holiday event in the past, mark your calendars now. It is loads of fun. Bring one gift for each family member who will participate. Gifts MUST be something you already have—Don't spend money on the gift. Bring your favorite snacks or finger foods and enjoy lots of laughs.

**December 17—Third Sunday Lunch** current plans are to forego the December 3rd Sunday lunch, unless there is MUCH objection. With the holidays and knowing that everyone's schedule is packed, we'll look forward to 3rd Sunday Lunch in January 2024.

**December 31, 6pm—5th Sunday** — rather than lunch immediately following worship services, let's gather again later in the day and celebrate the new year with games, food and fellowship. Menu will include traditional New Year's Eve "Blackeyed Peas" and any other foods you care to share. Obviously we won't plan to "ring in the new year", but a couple hours enjoying the company of brothers and sisters to set the tone for the new year.

#### Items to keep in mind...

 Ukrainian Change Cans—the annual campaign to help with efforts in the Ukraine. Still available in either lobby.





- Food Items for Southside Church of Christ food bank especially considering the holiday season.
   Next delivery will be December 12.
- WORDS-OF-WISDOM—is it time to change your WOW sign for a different bit of Wisdom? There are plenty of signs available in the activity bldg. so you can keep the message fresh for those who may be driving in your neighborhood. Bring back the one you have so others can use it.



Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. John 5:14



#### Known Prayer needs and requests:

**David Burris**— David continues to recover at home and seems to be doing well. Please continue prayers that this issue will finally be resolved.

**Tom Flaherty**—Brian's Dad. Tom's condition remains about the same. Please continue to pray for comfort and healing for Tom and the whole family.

**Jessica Gunnels**—Sarah Lisle's friend— Jessica continues her struggle and is making progress toward recover from lung transplant #2, however there is still a way to go. Please keep Jessica and her family in your prayers.

**Joyce Gray**—The family has decided to bring Joyce home from the rehab facility. Doctors report the fracture has healed probably as much as can be expected. She is still in a lot of pain, and they are considering one last treatment that can possibly give relief from the pain. Please continue to pray for Joyce.

Max, Juan and Ann—As they adjust to Joyce's changing circumstances.

**Sharold Ferris**—Sharold continues to be up and about—with caution. Please continue prayers for Sharold's overall health.

**Bob & Betty Lane**— Bob remains at home under hospice care. His condition continues to deteriorate. Betty continues as Bob's primary care giver, even with hospice workers coming by twice each week. I know Betty would appreciate calls and words of encouragement along with your prayers.

John and Samantha Jewell et al—Pray for John and Samantha and their efforts on behalf of the young people at York University. Also please continue your prayers for the work they oversee in Malawi—Snoden and his family, as well as all the children that are part of that program.

**Rain**—continues to be short of what will fill the lakes. Please keep this need in your prayers.

Those in assisted living and unable to meet with us:

◆ Dennis McMillion ◆ Pat Straw ◆ Jane Whitley ◆ Joyce Bennett

#### Please include prayers for :

- Israel and Ukraine -Safety of Christian brothers and sisters and innocent civilians in these war-torn areas.
- **Church growth and leadership**—pray for God's guidance and blessings on efforts to grow the Lord's church. Pray for wisdom for our leaders.

#### Known Prayer needs and requests: (continued)

- **Travelers**—Any who may be traveling—especially during the holidays.
- Civil leadership pray for upright leaders at all levels of government.
- Parents—pray for God's guidance and blessing for parents as families strive to navigate these turbulent times
- School teachers, administrators and staff as the school year progresses.

Please make known your prayer needs.



### November Birthdays

Andy Jewell 26 Nov Tom Reynolds 30 Nov

Melva Campbell 29 Nov

#### **December Birthdays**

Joe Campbell Dec 1 Christy Snell Dec 26
Curtis Thompson Dec 3 Jack Lisle Dec 29
David Burris Dec 24 Abe Elizondo Dec 31

Darla Thornton Dec 25

#### **December Anniversaries**

Nathan & Andrea Keller Dec 15 Bill & Sherry Jones Dec 30 Bob & Betty Lane Dec 23 Jane & Lee Hall Dec 31

#### Lamentations 3:20-24

- <sup>22</sup> Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
- <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
- <sup>24</sup> I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

#### STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP

#### Tuesday - Westworth Men's Group (1st & 3rd Tuesdays)



Current study:

The Apostle Peter—his life & ministry All are invited to join us in this research. Come share your knowledge. Help us learn from Peter's life how we can better serve God.

Next Meeting: -> JANUARY 2024 - 7pm, Activity Bldg The men's group will break until after the new year.

#### Wednesday Night Bible Study—Weekly @ 7pm

#### "Surprising Facts about Church History"

Did you ever say "God Bless you?" Did you ever wonder where that saying came from? Nope, not in the Bible. If you think the Early Church Fathers are irrelevant today. Think again. You owe all of your "God Bless yous" to the man who first used the word

"trinity" in connection with the concept of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. His name was Tertullian and he lived around A.D. 200. Wednesday nights at Bible Study we are tracing the journey of our faith from the death of Jesus through the years till 2023. Come see what other old ideas are put in a new light. David Keller

#### Thursdays Women's Virtual Bible Study

Each week — 7:00 pm via Google meet **Current Study:** 

<u>Gideon–Your Weakness. God's Strength</u> by Priscilla Shirer For information regarding materials and access (web-site and passcode) contact:

Tracy Robertson at 817-308-0554— or—snowgirlntx@yahoo.com

#### **WORSHID SCHEDULE**

Trustee in charge for December: Eric Kreger

Date	Today—November 26		
Open	<b>Curtis Dunson</b>		
Usher	Jonathan Dunson		
Songs/Close	Curtis Dunson		
Prayer	Johnny Box		
Communion	Tom Reynolds		
Bible Story Kids Church	Eric Kreger / Sherri Dunson & Tracey Robertson		
Reading	Justin Snell		
Lesson	Max Pratt		
A/V	Randy Fetters		

COMING WEEKS

Date	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17
Open			
Usher			
Songs/Close			
Prayer			
Communion			
Bible Story Kids Church			
Reading			
Lesson			
A/V			

Communion Preparation December: Stacey Fetters

#### What we want you to know about Westworth Church of Christ

We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important message for everyone in the world. Christ's message of salvation is packed with blessings for individuals, families, and community. Our mission is to share His gospel.

Our message comes from the inspired word of God. We teach that we are all sinners, and need saving from our sins. We are not saved by our own goodness or merit, but by the grace of God through our faith and obedience to the Gospel of Jesus. Jesus came to be our savior.

#### We believe...

- Jesus is the Son of God (John 11:27).
- in the Gospel Invitation (Matthew 11:28-30).
- the confession of our faith leads to our salvation (Romans 10:9-11).
- Godly sorrow turns a person away from sin to living a righteous life (Luke 5:32, 2 Corinthians 7:10).
- Baptism is one's new birth; when we bury the sinful man and rise up into a new spiritual life (Romans 6:3-5, 1 Peter 3:21-22).
- by living a faithful life God is glorified (Hebrews 13:15-16).

You are always welcome here. If you have any questions, or would like to know more about our beliefs please contact any member, call Max Pratt directly, or call the church office or to arrange time with him.

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**Minister:** Max Pratt— (325)718-9987

Trustees: Curtis Dunson Brian Flaherty

Eric Kreger Curtis Thompson

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Worship Services: Sunday, 10:00 am

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Facebook Group: Westworth Church of Christ

(https://www.facebook.com/westworthcoc/)