

Another Word February 21, 2022

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Sunday, I mentioned that our season of Lent will be a little different this year. Each week, we will visit specific places and look at all the situations and emotions Jesus went through those last fateful days, including His arrest and trial, and ending with His crucifixion and burial. Our intention is to draw us even closer to our Lord and Savior, through understanding of the great sacrifice that was done for the world.

To set up our Lenten series, this Sunday, we will be looking at Jesus' transfiguration, (Luke 9:28-36.) the raising of Lazarus, (John 11:38-44, 55-57.) and His entry into Jerusalem. (John 12: 12-19, 23, 31-33.) Lazarus, and Jesus' Triumphal entry are the two pivotal acts that begin the whole week of His passion. Our serving Elder is Dale Campbell, leading us in prayers, and reading Psalm 99.

Then on March 2nd at 6:30, Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Service. We hope you will be able to join us for this special service, recalling that we came from dust, and that we all will return to dust.

As we enter into prayer, please remember the family of our friend and brother, David Franklin who is now with the Lord. And praying for healing for Lennie Reich who is recovering at OhioHealth, Mansfield.

Holy and loving God. We thank You for this wonderful world You so richly created. And we are in awe of Your love and dedication that You shower on us. You provide all our needs and continue to bless us every

day of our lives. We hold up to You our friends and families, and all who are in need of healing. (Silent prayers) We ask for protection on all who have pledged their lives for the unselfish service and protection of others. Thank You for Your word, and Your guidance as we travel the many roads of our lives. All this we raise to You, in the name of Jesus, Your Son, and the light of life, Amen.

Donita and I have been watching a show produced by the BBC called The Repair Shoppe. (You know it's high class by the spelling.) Anyway, the show takes place in a large barn where people bring their broken and run down family treasures to experts who clean, polish, repair, and lovingly bring each item back to its former glory. It is incredible to watch their skill and patience as they go about the difficult job of assessing the damage, figuring out what is needed to be done, then painstakingly bringing the item back to life.

One of the more fascinating repairs to watch is when they are asked to repair a cracked hand painted dish, or to mend a broken piece of glazed pottery, such as a statue. Now, I have some patience, and I'm not too bad at repairs around the house. In fact, I have even been known to repair a chipped dish, a broken flower vase, or even a figurine. The problem is, I cannot hide the repair. The crack lines always show, and often the repair doesn't last. But in **the skilled hands of the artisan**, (the experts at the barn) when the repair is complete, the crack lines are all but invisible, the painted areas are like new, and even small missing chips have been filled and blended in.

Place your broken treasure in the skilled hands of the artisan. If you think about it, that is the perfect picture of our loving God who fixes broken lives. King David wrote in Psalm 31, verse 12, “I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.” We don’t know the exact circumstances of why he wrote these words, but it is evident that he is in danger, in great despair, all alone, and in a word, broken.

Where then does David turn for help? Psalm 31, verses 14 and 15 say, “I trust in You O Lord,” and “My times are in your hands,” and then verse 16 says, “Let Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your unfailing love.” Do you see what David does? He places his trust in the hands of the one who created him, molded him, and shaped him.

If we place our trust in quick easy fixes, like my gluing attempts, they may hold for a while but will inevitably fail. Nothing in the whole world can repair a broken life better than the one who first created it. And all that our Great Potter, the one who repairs broken lives, asks of us is to call out to Him, trust Him, to place ourselves in His hands, and to rely on His unfailing love.

In His Peace,

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