



Calvin Commentary

John Calvin Presbyterian Church
4201 Transcontinental Drive
Metairie, LA 70006

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MARCH 2016

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 20 – Palm Sunday

featuring the oratorio “CHRISTUS”

by: Felix Mendelsson

10:30am service

Maundy Thursday, March 24 –

7:00pm service

Good Friday, March 25 –

9:00am – 3:00pm

Sanctuary open for meditation

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The Study Window



If we can say that any one aspect of the Christian faith is more important than any other the resurrection is it. Without faith that Jesus rose from the dead there would be no Christianity. It was not the ethical teaching of Jesus or his death on the cross that gave birth to the Christian Church and made it spread. It was the news of his resurrection. The earliest confession summarizing the faith of the first Christians was Jesus is Lord a title conferred on him because of his resurrection.

Sometimes the church has made the cross the center of its faith. This is by no means wrong. The risen triumphant Lord is none other than the Suffering Servant who gave himself for us. But the cross is an appropriate symbol for the Christian faith only if it is an empty cross. In the words of Shirley Guthrie, "The foundation and center of the Christian faith is not death but life, not a tragedy but a victory beyond tragedy; not a gloomy world denying fascination with a dead sacrifice but a triumphant, world challenging faith in a living Lord; not a passive breast beating moaning about how sinful the world is, but an active joyful moving out of sinfulness to obedient fellowship with him." Christ is risen that is where the Christian faith begins. It is the one event that given meaning to everything else.

The good news of Christ's resurrection is not a sentimental assurance that death is not so bad, since our inmost selves do not really die. It is the radical good news of the powerful love of God which is stronger than death. The good news about the risen Lord is that unlike other unlimited powers we know, his power is the sovereignty of love. He is the Lord who gave his very life for us. He exercises his power in such a way that it does not destroy our freedom and humanity but grants and nourishes genuinely free human life. He became Lord without our support and in spite of our opposition. But as Lord he is for us and not against us. He is not for us in a paternalistic way as a person cares for a pet. Rather he is for us as one who shared and still shares our human existence and helps us to grow into the fully human people God intends us to be.

Even a cursory look at the world reveals the difficulty of saying that in the resurrection Christ has defeated the powers of death sin and evil. The New Testament writers are well aware of the paradox. On one hand the New Testament writers take the power of sin, evil and death so seriously that they expect them to be at work as long the world exists. Christ's final victory over these enemies will come only when the history of the world itself ends. On the other hand the New Testament writers take the victory of Christ at his resurrection so seriously that they confidently assert that these enemies are already defeated. In other words both things are true. Christ is not yet the unchallenged ruler of the world, but he is already the ruler of the world.

A number of biblical scholars use the analogy of a war where a decisive battle has taken place and outcome of the war has been determined even though the fighting rages on to describe the situation. The practical implication is we live in the time between, between Easter and the end. Christ's kingdom has been established but there is still fighting to do before it is acknowledged.

This means we must take evil seriously. Injustice, hatred, godlessness and inhumanity do and will continue to ravage our individual lives and our world. Evil is so powerful that not the people within history but only Christ at the end of history will finally overcome it. But while we must take evil seriously we can't take it more seriously than we take God. No matter how hopeless the situation of the world may seem we know there is a power at work greater than the power of evil. The reality of living in the times between means that we can and must fight against evil. While the past victory of Christ makes it possible for us to keep struggling the fact that the final victory has not yet been won makes it necessary. The goal has not yet been reached. The resurrection does not mean that we can sit back and tell ourselves that everything is all right. The powers of evil around us and within us have not admitted defeat. Jesus is still finishing the work he began and to celebrate Easter, the resurrection of our Lord, means that we need to obediently throw ourselves in to the battle with him.

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Harry Brown

I AM REDEEMED

*Blessed be the God and
Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ! By His great mercy
he has given us a new
birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the
dead.*

~ 1 Peter 1:3

THE MUSIC CORNER

by: William R. Memmott

When Mendelssohn died in 1846, he was working on his oratorio about the life of Christ. His brother, Paul, finished the work (and named it) and it was soon premiered to much acclaim. As you will hear when we perform the work on Palm Sunday (March 20), it contains some of Mendelssohn's most memorable melodies as well as his most dramatic outbursts of "passion." In typical Mendelssohn style, the work is truly a duet between voices and instruments.

Many of us lived through the terrible period of anti-Semitism in Germany when Mendelssohn's works were banned. Considering this statement of his Christian faith (he was converted about aged 11), it is no wonder that anti-Semitism was a racial hatred and not just a religious one.

Come, celebrate "the birth and passion of Christ" as we come to Holy Week and Easter. And join us for our Lenten Luncheon following the service.

Soli Deo Gloria



Calendar

March 2	Choir Practice @ 7:15pm
March 9	Choir Practice @ 7:15pm
March 14	Dress Rehearsal @ 7pm
March 20	Easter Cantata
March 27	Easter Sunday



MARCH 2 -	SUE CRAWFORD
MARCH 2 -	JOSH HEBERT
MARCH 5 -	BETTY SUNDMAKER
MARCH 6-	ANDREW CRAWFORD
MARCH 6 -	MEGAN LAULAND
MARCH 13 -	BRIAN FISH JR.
MARCH 18 -	KELLY LAPORTE
MARCH 19 -	ALEX PRINCE
MARCH 21 -	BENJAMIN BONE
MARCH 24 -	BRIAN FISH
MARCH 25 -	LEE MUNDELL
MARCH 28 -	BEVERLY ROSS
MARCH 30 -	RON MARLER
MARCH 31 -	CARSON PERRET

If you have a birthday in March and it was not listed, please contact the office so we may put it in our database.

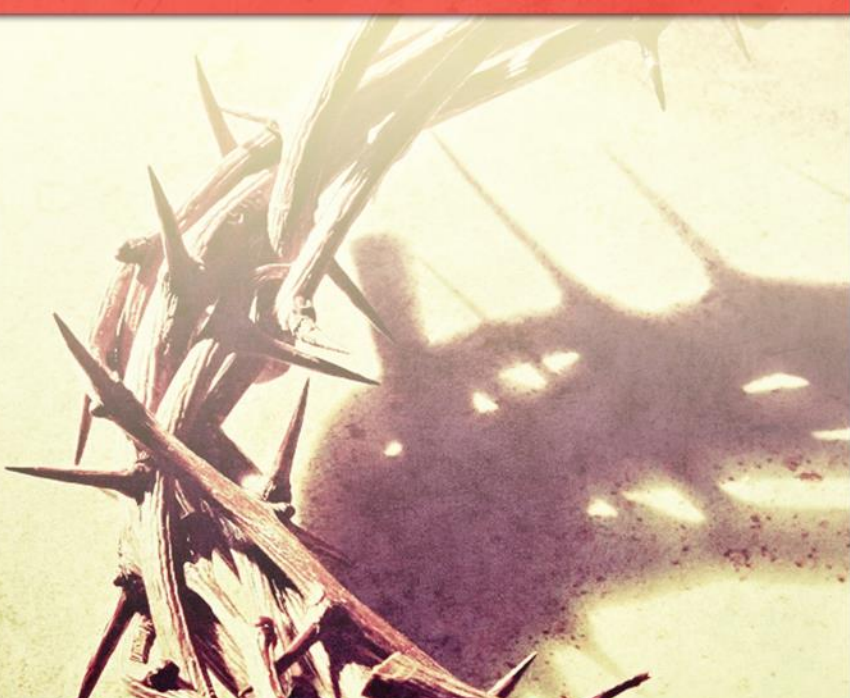
Presbyterian Women Meeting Schedule

P.W. Coordinating Team – Tuesday, Mar. 1 @ 10am

Lydia Circle – Tuesday, Mar. 8th @ 7pm

Grace Circle – Tuesday, Mar. 15 @ 9:30pm

All women are welcome to attend either circle



And the second is like
unto it, Thou shalt love
thy neighbor as thyself.

– Romans 8:30

50 years ago...

.... did you know?

Can you imagine Transcontinental as a dirt road? That's what was here 50 years ago when the Presbytery of New Orleans purchased 5.11 acres out in the country with the idea of forming a new Presbyterian Church. With the flourishing oil industry of the time, it was anticipated that there would be an influx of workers and their families in the area, and that they would need a place to worship.

The vision for John Calvin Presbyterian Church was officially conceived on March 3, 1966 at a meeting of Presbytery officials in the New Orleans Petroleum Club, and commissioned the next day. Who was at this initial meeting? Do you know the names of Bob Wells, Dick Vermillion, or Dan D'Antoni? They were all members of Parkway Presbyterian Church and instrumental in creating John Calvin Presbyterian Church. Rev. Jack Moore of Dallas, Texas was borrowed from the Texas Presbytery to help with organizing the new church. Rev. Moore served for 4 months and was replaced by Dr. T. Russell Nunan.

What happened next? Ever heard of the "lost" Presbyterians? Stay tuned for next month's installment on the history of John Calvin Presbyterian Church as we begin the celebration of 50 years serving Christ.



Mark your calendar!

We are planning a special Worship Service and Luncheon

Sunday, October 9, 2016

**to celebrate our John Calvin Presbyterian Church's
50th Anniversary!**

It will be a wonderful, joyful celebration, so please mark your calendar early and plan to attend.

Additional activities and remembrances are also being planned for the celebration weekend and throughout the year.

Tablecloth Dinner Time!

The March Tablecloth dinner
will be in April!!

Thursday, April 7

at Sandro's Trattoria
6601 Veterans Blvd.

The price has yet to be determined,
but will be reasonable.

Set the date and watch the narthex for a
poster on the price and whom to pay.

*As usual, fun is practically guaranteed for
all!*

Have we got a deal for you!

Here's the easiest Mission Project you can imagine...
one that nearly everyone can participate in!

Collecting Labels for Education!

The Presbyterian Women and Outreach Committee are collecting three labels types for Alice Birney Elementary School to be used for positive behavior recognition and to purchase gym supplies for the classrooms.



Box Tops for Education are found on many, many common products: General Mills Cereals; Ziploc Products; Progresso Soups; Betty Crocker items; Old El Paso items; Scott and Kleenex products; Land O'Lakes, Pillsbury, and Yoplait products; Nature Valley and Fiber One products; and Hefty products.

Each label is worth 10 cents.

Campbell's Labels can be found on Campbell's soup and sauce cans; Pepperage Farm products; Pace salsas and sauces; Swanson stocks and chicken cans; V8 products; and SpaghettO products. These are used for purchase sports items from a catalog.



Local Community Coffee labels are being collected as well. The UPC Proof of Purchase Seal is what counts for these. Any Community Coffee product has one. We are collecting the seal off of the cases of coffee we are purchasing for Sunday coffee! Each one is worth 10 cents!

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine,
This little light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
All the time!

Don't let Satan blow it out!
I'm going to let it shine,
Don't let Satan blow it out!
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
All the time!

Don't put it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine,
Don't put it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
All the time!

Let it shine till Jesus comes,
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine till Jesus comes,
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
All the time!

Every week I share Bible Time with the children of John Calvin Presbyterian Playschool. One of our most sung, and beloved, songs is "This Little Light of Mine." These are perfect, repetitive, and powerful lyrics taken directly from the books of Matthew and Luke.

Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Luke 11:33 King James Version (KJV)

³³No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

Sharing our light, our faith, our stories is considered the "Great Commission". Interestingly enough, it is never called the "great" commission in the Bible, just Jesus commissioning the disciples, 11 men, to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

These words are still 'upon us' -to share our faith, our stories, our light. Our words do not need to be "great", but when they come from the experience of God in our lives, they cannot be "hidden under bushel" or extinguished. They shine and they light the path for others.

Blessings,

Ms. Laurie

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, March 19, 10-12pm

- The Christian Education Committee is looking for your help with our annual
 - Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 19!

We need your donations of :

- any wrapped candy appropriate for young children (that fits in a plastic Easter egg)

NO NUTS, PLEASE! (in the candy, that is)

Please drop off **donations of wrapped candy** to the church or playschool office (there will also be a collection box located in church narthex) **by Wednesday, March 16.**

Thank you very much from our children and from the CE Committee!

Also, please come and join us for a fun-filled morning!
We will have five craft stations, music, an Easter Egg Hunt and pictures with the Easter Bunny!
We are looking forward to a great morning!

Any questions can be directed to Laurie Robinson.
Email: laurie.robinson@johncalvinchurch.org, or phone (504) 888-1375.

Playschool News

We are WILD about learning through PLAY at John Calvin Presbyterian Playschool. Our 3's, 4's and 5's had a great time parading around school and have really enjoyed learning about Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day!!

Thank you for your help and support of our upcoming biggest fundraiser-- our Art & Fun Festival!! It is greatly appreciated:)

MARCH 12: ART & FUN FESTIVAL

PLEASE READ THE FLYER ABOUT SPONSORS FOR THE ART & FUN FESTIVAL AND LET US KNOW IF YOU KNOW ANYONE THAT MAY BE INTERESTED! ALSO, SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS ARE NEEDED SUCH AS RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS, GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR SERVICES, OUTDOOR ITEMS, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, JEWELRY, BASKETS, SPORTS MEMORABILIA, ETC.

Do you own a company or are you looking for a great advertising opportunity?

Our Art & Fun Festival is just around the corner and we need your help finding some sponsors...

We are looking for several **Game Booth Sponsors**. For a donation of **\$25**, game booth sponsors will have a sign posted by the game and in Fellowship Hall with their company's name and a small write-up in the school-wide fair thank you letter.

We are seeking sponsors for the portable **MAZE** from A-MAZ-ING. Maze sponsorships cost **\$60**, and include a sign with the company's info posted by the maze and in Fellowship Hall, a small write-up in the school-wide fair thank you letter, and unlimited maze entrances for the playschool child that gets a maze sponsorship.

We are seeking **Petting Zoo Sponsorships** at **\$100** each, and this sponsorship will include a sign with the company's name and contact information by the petting zoo and in Fellowship Hall, a larger write-up in the school-wide fair thank you letter, and unlimited petting zoo entrances for the playschool child that gets a petting zoo sponsorship. ZOO2U's petting zoo will take place in the grassy area from 10am-2 pm and will allow our little ones to hold and pet a variety of animals.



Sponsorships don't have to be companies, and can also be done by a family (for example: The Jones Family). Please come visit us in the office if you have any questions or just fill out the bottom of this flyer, attach a business card, and bring it to the office with a check for the sponsorship fee by **March 4.** As always, THANK YOU for your support!!

Student's Name: _____ Class: _____

Sponsor's Contact Information:

- I would like to be a:
- o Game Booth Sponsor at \$
 - o Maze Sponsor at \$60
 - o Petting Zoo Sponsor at \$100

****Please attach a business card or exact wording that you would like included on the sign.**

Please attach a business card, company information, or exact wording that you would like included on the sign and in the Festival brochure.