

Family Information

Area-Wide Worship Night On January 30

Sunday January 30th Northland will be hosting an area-wide worship night. Time is still being decided, but mark your calendars for Sunday evening January 30th with a theme of "Singing Through the Ages."

Offering Envelopes

On the table on the right side of the foyer as you enter, there are boxes of offering envelopes for 2022, for those who have requested them or have used them in the past. The names are written on each box. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, see Pam Estep or Glenn Culler.

On Line Bible Studies

Current On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details and the current schedule.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. If you aren't able to join, you can e-mail prayer requests to Peggy.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is on the book of Galatians. Contact Karen for more details.

Contact Caleb Dillinger if you would like to have free access to RightNow Media, a digital collection of faith-based videos.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3195	\$4612
Designated:	\$	\$50

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Spanish Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Ghana Worship	12:00 PM
Sunday Evening Worship	4:30 PM

For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez



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Remembering God

You know, a lot of people are forgetting God. They haven't done it theoretically, as others have done with their theories (postulated through the God-is-dead theology) but a lot of people just get so involved in their big bank accounts and in their beautiful expensive automobiles that they unconsciously forget God.

So many people become so involved in looking at the manmade lights of the city that they forget to think about the great cosmic light that gets up early in the morning in the eastern horizon and moves with a kind of symphony of motion like a masterly queen strolling across a mansion and paints its technicolor across the blue as it moves - a light that man could never make.

Some people have become so involved in looking at the skyscraping buildings of the cities that they've forgotten to think of the gigantic mountains, kissing the skies, as if to bathe their peaks in the lofty blue - something that man could never make.

So many people have become so involved in television and radar that they've forgotten to think about the beautiful stars that bedeck the heavens like swinging lanterns of eternity, standing there like shining silvery pins sticking in the magnificent blue pincushion - something that man could never make.

So many people have come to feel on their own efforts they can bring in a new world, but they've forgotten to think about the fact that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. And so they end up going over and over again without God.

But I tell you this morning, my friends, there's no way to get rid of him. And all of our new knowledge will not diminish God's being one iota. Neither the microcosmic compass of the atom nor the vast interstellar ranges of interstellar space can make God irrelevant for living in a universe, where stellar distance must be measured in light-years, where stars are five hundred million miles from the earth, where heavenly bodies travel at incredible speeds.

Modern man still has to cry out with the psalmist, "When I behold the heavens, the work of thy hands and all that thou hast created; what is man, that thou art mindful of him?"

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.,
excerpts from a sermon in Chicago, August 1967

A Wall Around Us & Glory Within

There before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand . . . to measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is . . . another angel came to meet him and said to him: Run, tell that young man, Jerusalem will be a city without walls . . . I myself will be a wall of fire around it, declares the Lord. - Zechariah 2:1-5

God surrounds those who walk by faith in Jesus with a canopy of his presence, a shield of truth and grace, to protect us from the accuser's reproaches and snares that would be too strong for us. Our Heavenly Father gives us shade from this world's withering emptiness and shelter from this world's storms of futility, and the Lord also gives us his Spirit, the presence of God's glory - . . . *declares the Lord, and I will be its glory within. - Zechariah 2:5*

Not only is God a wall around us, his glory is also within us. We are weak and we understand so little, yet God walks before us and behind us, and he lives in us. Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861) writes this about these comforting truths: "The little birds sang east, and the little birds sang west, And I smiled to think God's greatness flowed around our incompleteness; Round our restlessness, His rest."

Our Father in heaven surrounds us with reminders large and small of his nearness; he reassures us of his presence with things seen and unseen, and he patiently reminds us to fix our minds on Jesus, so that we may see the full measure of God's care and compassion for us. As C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) wrote, "We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito." For indeed the Lord lives among us - *Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you, declares the Lord. - Zechariah 2:10*

Moreover, we can see God's glory all around us; when we open our hearts to our Heavenly Father and let him open our eyes, he will show us spiritual truths and his understanding and his unfailing care. For as scientist and writer Lailah Gifty Akita writes, "If you seek the presence of God, you will see the glory of God."

The Lord dwells on high, yet he also makes his home with those who turn to his Son and walk humbly in his light - *Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling. - Zechariah 2:13*

This world's circumstances and outward appearances change constantly, yet God and his words and the message of Jesus will endure forever.

- Mark Garner

Renewed Inwardly

This world's futility and emptiness may hard press and perplex us, yet God renews us inwardly day by day. This week, Renée Jackson writes about the renewal God gives us.

Renewed Inwardly Day By Day

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." 2 Corinthians 4:16.

The possibility of losing heart is real. The reality is that our outward man is perishing. There's no way we can stop ourselves from aging or eventually leaving our earthly house/body/tent. We must work on the daily renewal of our inward man and keep seeking the things that are above. *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above . . . not on earthly things . . . your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." Colossians 3:1-4.* It is our inward man that will spend eternity in either heaven or hell - as shown in the account of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-17). So unless we take care of our inward man, we may drift away from the hope of heaven. *"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." Hebrews 2:1.*

Renewal becomes extremely important when hard times come. When we feel betrayed or experience setbacks or loss, it is easy to want to just give up. A relationship with Jesus doesn't exempt us from the problems of life. Paul is a great example of one who understood the need for spiritual renewal. Paul tells of a difficult moment in 2 Corinthians 1:18. Although we don't know the circumstance - perhaps persecution, suffering or threats on his life, Paul tells how he felt: burdened, lacking strength, despairing of life, feeling like a death sentence was upon him.

How can we be renewed day by day? By worshiping we are renewed, by getting our eyes off the problems and focusing them on the One who is greater than all our problems. By being in the presence of God we gain a renewed strength. *Isaiah 40:29-31 - "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

Waiting on the Lord is the opposite of trying to do it ourselves. Waiting on the Lord is depending on God. Waiting on the Lord is subjecting our will to His term and His timing. Waiting always includes time, patience and being with Him. By studying the word of God we gain a renewed mind. *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2.* By receiving the ministry of the Holy Spirit we gain a renewed hope. The Holy Spirit was with God at creation; so the Spirit is able to minister to us exactly when and how we need. *"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy . . . through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5*

As our outer man deteriorates, we are reminded of the encouraging reality that our inner being can be renewed. Through prayer, Bible study and gift of God's Holy Spirit, we can be renewed daily as well. We need this daily contact with God to grow spiritually and to be able to handle the trials that come our way.

- Renée Jackson