

NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP FOR Sunday, 23 AUGUST 2020

5th Avenue Family & Friends. Sunday, 23 August 2020 will be confirmation Sunday for our confirmand, Emma Louk and youth Sunday.

We are limiting attendance for this worship service to the youth and their family only - to ensure the utmost safety precautions and limit exposure to both the youth and adults. Please be sure to watch this celebration virtually on 23 August 2020 by visiting our website – faumc.org.

We look forward to seeing you in-person on 30 August 2020 as we conclude our 6-week sermon series – fat hog for Jesus. Y'all come!

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

- All children, youth, young and older adults that are returning to various forms of educational venues.
- Our highest "good", of course, is becoming more like Jesus (as Paul says in v 29). God can bring good even from this undeniably bad situation—transforming us into the likeness of his Son. Romans 12 v 2 Paul says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Amen.
- Ms. Norma Chitwood has been placed in hospice care.
- Mr. Ted Meilahan, for restoration of strength mobility after a fall.
- Ms. Debra Matthies, healing and diagnosis.
- Ms. Doris Mohr, for healing and strength after a fall.
- Mrs. Barb Koehler and Family on the passing of Dr. John Koehler. Celebration of Life Service, August 29, 2020 @ 3:00 pm @ 5th Avenue United Methodist Church. Visitation August 29, 2020, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.
- Mrs. Dot Edison and Family on the passing of Mr. Robert Edison. Funeral plans are pending; to be held in Illinois.
- Mrs. Jerri Bowerman and Family on the passing of Mr. James “Jim” Bowerman.
- Ms. Carrie (Anthony) Kuhaupt, on the passing of her father, Mr. Charles “Chuck” P. Pischke.
- Ms. Linda Green – more chemotherapy. (Sister of Ms. Debra Matthies)
- Ms. Nancy Whitson – prayers for healing.
- Mr. Dennis Liepert – prayers for continued healing.
- Mr. Bob Krell – prayers for healing.
- Mr. and Mrs. Roger and Nobi Sacia restoration of strength and healing.
- Mr. Steve Siebenaler – continued healing. (son of Mr. & Mrs. Allan & Janice Liepert-Kempf)
- Those that find their cupboards empty.
- All those that are caring for others.
- 5th Avenue Pastor, Staff, and Laity.
- Wisconsin Annual Conference.
- Our World - Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

● Those you lift up in the secrets of your hearts:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, Brothers and Sisters. Amen.

I'm getting a kick out of the feedback I'm receiving from those of you who tell your friends and families you're learning at church how to be **FAT HOG for Jesus**. I'm having a good time, as well, telling people what I'm preaching about.

So far, we've looked at being **FAITHFUL, AVAILABLE AND TEACHABLE**. Sunday, 16 August 2020, we'll start on the **HOG** part with a study of 1 Peter 1:13-16 and what it says about being **HOLY**. Following that, we'll get to **OBEDIENT AND GROWING** to finish out the series.

"I am the Lord your God, consecrate yourselves and be **HOLY**, because I am **HOLY**." — Leviticus 11:44

We set apart a lot of things. When we wash our clothes, we set them apart by colors. We set apart our vegetables from our meat. We set apart our refrigerated things from our frozen items.

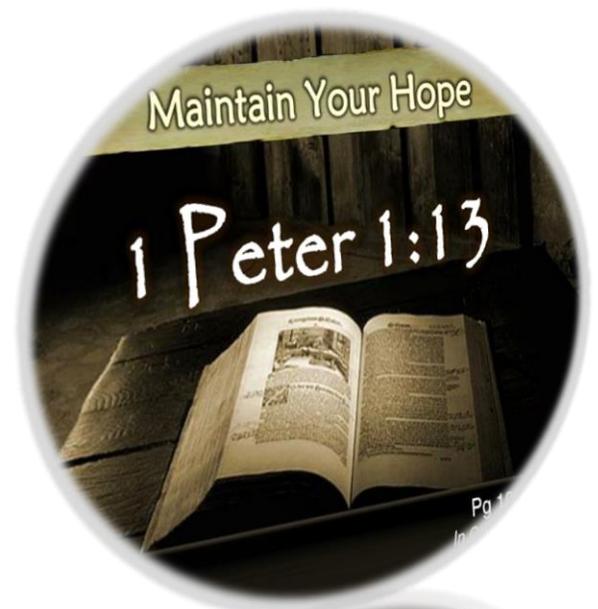
To be **HOLY** means to be "set apart." We are called to distance ourselves from sin and impurity, even as we live among all kinds of people in this world.

By calling his people to be **HOLY**, God wanted them to be a shining light of his blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:2-3). But Israel continually failed to be the **HOLY** nation God formed them to be. That is why the prophets kept calling them back to living God's way—that is, by loving God with all their heart, mind, and strength and by loving their neighbors as themselves.

This is also our job as prophets today. In this Lenten season, we and others are called back to living for God and showing his love, as Jesus did. The world continues to be shaped by Christians who push back the darkness and reclaim this lost world for Christ.

Sometimes it is a fearful thing to be a prophet. It can also be exciting and fulfilling work. The world needs more prophets today. You and I are prophets. We are anointed to confess the name of Jesus as Lord and Savior. We are called to love God with our whole being and to share his love with everyone.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, Your Word commands us to, "be holy as You are holy", and I know that in and of myself I cannot live in true holiness of heart, except as the Lord Jesus lives His life in me, and the Holy Spirit carries out a life-transforming work in me. Thank You, that I have been born into Your family, united together with Christ and am one with Him. I pray that increasingly, His nature and character may be developed in me, until I can say as Paul did, "my old self has died and been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives His resurrection life in me and works through me." I ask that You would continue to root out all of me that is counter to what You desire from me, and I pray that You would increasingly transform me into the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus, day by day. Lord, I know that this is not an easy prayer to pray and it will likely cause me much pain, but I believe that this is



the will for each of Your children, and so I come to You today and say, Father, Your will be done in my life. Give me I pray, that desire and grace to become a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto You, to Your praise and glory. This I ask in Jesus' name, amen.

~Monday, 17 August 2020 - Root Word for **HOLY**

Scripture Reading — 1 Peter 1:13-21

The Hebrew word for **HOLY** is “qodesh” and means “apartness, set-apartness, separateness, sacredness.” Other descriptive words could also be - “otherness, transcendent and totally other” because God is totally above His creation and His creatures, including us. **HOLY** has the idea of heaviness or weight of glory. In the New Testament, the word for HOLY is “hagios” and means set apart, reverend, sacred, and worthy of veneration.” This word applies to God because Godself is totally other, separate, sacred, transcendent, reverend, and set apart from every created thing. Since God is spirit this is why the Third Person of the Trinity is called the **HOLY SPIRIT**. She too is fully God and all three Persons of the Trinity are **HOLY** and have the weight of glory abounding in them.

Study questions -

- What does the word “holy” mean? How is this similar/different to the definitions for “sanctify” and “saint”?
- In the Ten Commandments the fourth commandment has to do with the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11). Why was it so important for the Jews to keep this commandment? What lessons did this teach them? Even though we don't keep the Sabbath, are there lessons for us as Christians?

Prayer - Lord, may our lives be **HOLY** and pleasing to you. May it be clear that we want to honor you and love others, to your glory. Amen.

~Tuesday, 18 August 2020 – **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Scripture Reading — 1 Peter 1:13-21

God has many attributes just like each of us have - mother/father, wife/husband, daughter/son, aunt/uncle and so on but God is merciful, patient, longsuffering, and abounding in love but the only attribute of God that is mentioned three times is God's predominant attribute. God is not just **HOLY**, but God is **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**. In Jewish liturgy, when something is incredibly important, it is mentioned twice. Jesus does this when he says something twice like “verily, verily.” Great intimacy is also signified when God repeats someone's name twice like Moses, Moses; Abraham, Abraham; Saul, Saul. But when something is mentioned three times in a row, it is off the charts in importance and this is why of all the attributes of God, God is **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**. That is the greatest emphasis that can be put on anything or anyone in Scripture and this is telling us that this is the most important thing about God. God is **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**. This is the only attribute of God that is mentioned in the Scriptures **three times!**

Study questions -

- In the Ten Commandments the fourth commandment has to do with the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11). Why was it so important for the Jews to keep this commandment? What lessons did this teach them? Even though we don't keep the Sabbath, are there lessons for us as Christians?
- How important is holiness to you? How much thought, attention, and effort do you devote to the pursuit of holiness? Are you intentional about putting away everything that is displeasing to God and living a holy life?
- Read Colossians 3:1-17 – In one sentence summarize what Paul is calling the church to be?
- How does Paul encourage us in Colossians 3:1-17 to pursue holiness?

Prayer - Thank You, Father, that You have called me out of darkness into Your marvelous light and set me free from slavery to sin and released me from bondage to fear. Thank You for breathing the new resurrection life of Christ into my very being, and for taking up permanent residence within my heart. Lord, I want to be led by Your Holy Spirit and

to walk in spirit and truth. I want to live a godly life and to develop personal holiness, but I do not really know how to.

Lord, I come to You incapable of being able to live a holy life myself and humbly ask You Lord, that You would teach me to be holy and show me how You would have me live. Open my eyes to see what You would have me to do. Unblock my ears so that I may hear Your still small voice, and give me a teachable spirit to learn all that You would teach me. I know that alone I can do nothing, but in Christ, who is my life, I can do all things. In Jesus' name, amen.

~Wednesday, 19 August 2020 - Isaiah's Vision of God

Isaiah 6:1-4 - "In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke."

Isaiah actually saw a vision of the glory of God and this smoke was the Shekinah glory of God. In ancient days, the king's train length of their robe was the measure of his greatness and in this case, God's train fills the whole temple. Each of the seraphim angels had six wings and proclaimed "**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" and indeed it is. The seraphim had six wings for this purpose; with two of them they flew, with two of them they covered their face and with the last two they covered their feet. Why cover their feet and their face? Because God is too **HOLY** for even the **HOLY** angels to look directly at. Remember that God told Moses that he could not see God's face directly or he would die. No person or any creation can look directly at God and not be incinerated (Exodus 33:20) so two of the seraphim's six wings had to cover their face (and eyes) or would also die. The other two wings covered their feet because they were standing on **HOLY** ground; recall when Joshua encountered the pre-incarnate Christ and when Moses approached the burning bush, they were told to remove their shoes from off their feet (Exodus 3:5; Joshua 5:15) because the ground where they stood was **HOLY** ground, therefore, even the seraphim had to cover their feet because anywhere God is will be **HOLY** ground.

Study questions -

- How important is your children's holiness to you? (A good gauge— do you care more about their grade point average, their batting average, and their earning capacity, or about their purity of heart and life?) Does their sin drive you to your knees?
- How concerned are you about the holiness of the body of Christ? Does it grieve you when you see yourself or others treating sin lightly?

Prayer - Lord, show me where I have sinned, and give me the courage to honor you and do what's right. Amen.

~Thursday, 20 August 2020 – John's Vision of Christ

Revelation 4:8 - "And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Here is where John, like Isaiah, gets a heavenly vision of God. He sees a vision of Jesus Christ and His glory and the angels (the four living creatures) also had six wings and continuously, "day and night" never stopped repeating "**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is and is to come." This "who was, and is, and is to come" shows the eternity of Christ. That He was (has always existed) and is (does exist now) and is to come (will always exist). He too is holy to the third degree. Since Jesus is also God, He too is "**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**." It appears that these creatures are also seraphim and had six wings for the same purpose that they did in Isaiah's vision; they flew with two, they covered their face or eyes with the others, and they covered their feet with the remaining two wings. That shows us just how **HOLY** God is. That Jesus is above all things, **HOLY**. This mentioning of Jesus'

holiness three times could also indicate that there is a one **HOLY** for each Person of the Trinity and that Jesus is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient but most importantly Jesus is **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**.

Study questions -

- How does God transfer the idea of holiness from the Old Testament to the New Testament?
- Practically speaking, how do you live your life differently from those around you? What changes might you need to make in your life to make sure your thoughts and actions are in line with living a life of holiness?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, thank you for forgiving all my sins. Thank you for dying so that I could be in your presence and with your people. Amen

~Friday, 21 August 2020 – You Must Be Holy

God doesn't tell us that God desires us to be holy or that we can make ourselves holy, "but as God who called you is **HOLY**, you also are called to be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15-16) and God through Moses tells the children of Israel that they must "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am **HOLY**" (Leviticus 19:2).

- How can we be holy since we are wicked to the core?
- Is this even possible?
-

1 John 1:8-9 gives us help in knowing how to be holy as he writes "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When God cleanses us, we are clean definitely. In fact, Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:21 it was "For our sake he made him to be sin, who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." When the God sees us, God actually sees Christ's own righteousness. When Zechariah had a vision of Joshua the High Priest, he writes "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So, they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments." Hence, we can only be made clean by the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

If you have repented and trusted in Christ then it is **you** of whom they're speaking in Revelation 7:14 where John writes, "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb", "with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Peter 1:19) consequently made holy and acceptable to God. There is no other way (Acts 4:12). You will either die in your sins and be judged and found guilty and be separated from God forever (Revelations 20:11-15) or you will be one of "his servants who will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelations 22:3-5).

Study questions -

- As followers of Jesus, are we considered holy? Is this the same holiness that the Old Testament prophets had? (See 1 Corinthians 1:2-3 and 1 Peter 1:2-3)
- If we are considered holy, do we have to do anything different with how we live our lives? What does it mean to live a life of "holiness"? (See 2 Corinthians 2:14-18) How do you live out these aspects of holiness in your own life?

Prayer - Father in heaven, you have called me to be a priest here on earth. Help me to love and be a living sacrifice for you and your kingdom. In Jesus, Amen

~Saturday, 22 August 2020 – Why Be Holy? (1 Peter 1:17-21)

If you're motivated, you can do amazing things. What would motivate a person to get out of bed in the middle of the night and read with avid interest a technical website or book? Every parent of a sick child who has read WebMD or Dr. Spock at 3 a.m. knows the answer! What would motivate a person to go sit out in an icy wind for an hour on a Saturday when there are other pressing things to do? The love of daughters and sons who are playing soccer causes loved ones to do that very thing.

What would make a college student stay up all night banging away at their computer? Surely their body is crying out for sleep! Surely, they're not so intrigued by the subject that they just can't quit! They're motivated by a professor who said, "The term paper will count for 25 percent of your grade. No late work will be accepted. No exceptions!"

Why don't we read our Bibles with the consistency and fervency that we should? Why don't we pray as we ought? Why don't we discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness? Why do we get more excited about sports or leisure activities than we do about talking with a neighbor about Christ? Why don't we strive to be holy people in every area of life? Why do our hearts grow cold toward the things of God?

The answer is that, for one reason or another, we lack motivation. If we can kindle the right motivation, we will not fall into lukewarmness (Revelations 3:14-22). We will be fervent in spirit, all-out for the Lord.

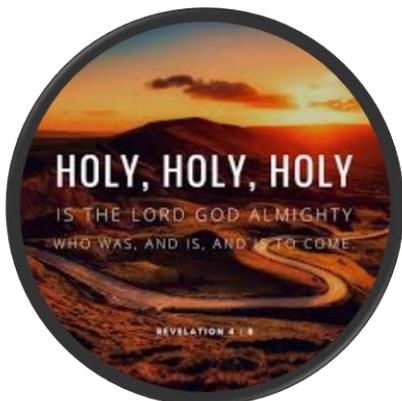
In 1 Peter 1:13-16, the apostle calls us to a holy lifestyle in light of the great salvation which God has freely given to us. But, holiness is not an easy thing! It doesn't happen automatically. To be a holy person in a corrupt world, we must live carefully. We must be focused in purpose. We must fight against the lusts of the flesh and the pull of the world. We must be distinct, which often means standing alone in the face of group pressure. To succeed, we've got to be motivated. So Peter goes on to answer the question, "Why be holy?" In 1Peter:17-21, he gives both a negative threat and a positive incentive which should motivate us to be holy people. *We should be holy because our Father is also our Judge and because He redeemed us at infinite cost.*

Some say that negative threats do not motivate as well as positive incentives. But God includes plenty of negative threats in the Bible as motivators. So, we'd best not shrug them off!

Peter wants us who are the children of God to see the great price He paid to redeem us from our sins. Seeing the Savior's blood should motivate us to be holy. As C. T. Studd put it, "If Christ be God and died for me, there is nothing too great that I can do for Him."

Study questions -

- Why is the fear of judgment a proper motivation for believers?
- Why couldn't God forgive sins without the shedding of blood?
- How does the fact that redemption is of God fit in with human responsibility?



Dear Heavenly Father, You are a holy God and I desire to be holy too. Set apart unto You, and living my life in a manner that is worthy of You and pleasing to You. Search my heart I pray, and if there is any cherished sin lurking within, I ask that You would search it out and destroy it, for I know that only the one that has clean hands and a pure heart may stand in Your presence. Purify my heart, cleanse my inner thoughts and examine the very motives behind my acts and attitudes, for I desire to live in holiness of heart. If there is anything that is displeasing to You in my life, I ask that in Your grace You would root it out, so that I may live in godly holiness all the days of my life, clothed in Christ's righteousness, separated unto You and walking in godly love. This I ask in Jesus' name, amen.

Day and night, they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."
"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Revelation 4