

MEDITATION



Josh Tucker
Pastor
St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were

marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Last week in our study of Ephesians, we looked at how the author shares a difficult truth with his hearers in that we should allow our old selves, our old habits, to die and make room for the blooming of a new self in Christ Jesus. This week, we see what that new self looks like. Paul encourages us as new people in Christ to be imitators of Christ so that all may know of his love. As beloved children in Christ, we are encouraged with such words and actions, which guide us to live in this way: grace, forgiveness, imitators, building up, live in love, and being useful. As disciples of Christ, we are called to say and do things that support and encourage one another. We are called to offer grace and forgiveness to each other so that our care and kindness for one another many shine forth.

Living in such a way boils down to love. By speaking and acting as Christ

wants us to, we convey what Jesus means when he commands us to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Living this way we put away the evil and sin that was a part of our old life without Christ and we take on love, as it is the center of our new lives in Christ.

I'm reminded of the refrain in the popular Christian camp song, "They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love." According to Paul, to live as love means that we are imitators of Christ, for Christ is love. We are called to live as Jesus lived, walk as Jesus walked and do as Jesus did. When we do that we embrace our new life in Jesus by loving God and loving others but always remembering that it was God that first loved us, through Jesus Christ. The good news is this: God is love and he gives us his love through Jesus Christ so that we may share his love with others. Let us go and love this day just as Jesus loves.

Final Lenten service today

What are you giving up for Lent? That was the question posed by Rev. James Lochridge, pastor of Second Baptist Church, to worshippers attending the community-wide Lenten service last Wednesday at noon at East Gold Street Wesleyan Church.

The next question was "what are you taking up for Lent?" Basing his remarks on scripture from the Book of Zechariah, Lochridge suggested that religiosity and rebelliousness are two things to give up while examining yourself on your relationship with God. "Do you go to church to honor God or is it a habit?" Instead of rebelling, he suggested that Christians should be a witness in the community. "Repent and take up the cross," he added. Lochridge and Bill McMurrey closed the service by signing the duet, "He Lives Within My Heart."

The closing service in the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association-sponsored series of services will be held today (Wednesday) at 12 noon at Second Baptist Church. Rev. Ron Caulder, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, will deliver the message.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Advent Lutheran Church,
NALC Member
KM Senior Center
909 E. Kings St.

Anew Beginning Baptist Church
415 Dixon School Rd.
704-473-1372

Ardent Life Church
420 Branch Street
704-739-7700

Arise Church
Kings Mountain YMCA
211 Cleveland Ave.

Bethlehem Baptist Church
1017 Bethlehem Road
704-739-7487

Boyce Memorial ARP Church
Edgemont Drive
704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)

Calvary Way Holiness Church
1017 Second Street
Pastor Clifton Morgan

Carson Memorial Baptist Church
262 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-2247

Central United Methodist Church
113 S. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-2471

Cherokee St. Baptist Church
421 S. Cherokee Street
704-739-7697

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church
618 Chestnut Ridge Road
704-739-4015

Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church
246 Range Road
704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church
714 Stone Street
704-487-7697

Church at Kings Mountain
108 E. Mountain St.
(KM Women's Club Bldg.)
704-739-1323

Cornerstone Church Of God
202 Margrace Road
704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent Baptist
107 Range Road
704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist
125 Mayberry Lane
704-739-0310

David Baptist Church
2300 David Baptist Church Road
704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church
602 Dixon School Road
dixonpresbyterian.com

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church
701 E. Gold Street
704-739-3215

East Kings Mountain Church of God
Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM Hwy.
704-739-7367

Eastside Baptist Church
308 York Road
704-739-8055

Ebenezer Baptist Church
1621 County Line Road
704-739-8331

El Bethel United Methodist Church
122 El-bethel Road
704-739-9174

Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church
602 Canterbury Road
704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church
1128 S. York Road
704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church
1009 Linwood Road
704-739-8396

Faith Holiness Church
Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.
704-739-1997

Family Worship Center
1818 Shelby Road
704-739-7206

First Baptist Church
605 W. King Street
704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene
121 Countryside Road
704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church
111 E. King Street
704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church
505 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist
117 Galilee Church Road
704-739-7011

Gospel Assembly Church
202 S. Railroad Avenue
704-739-5351

Good Hope Presbyterian Church
105 N. Cansler Street
704-739-1062

Grace Fellowship
144 West Mountain Street
704-481-8888

Grace United Methodist Church
830 Church Street
704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church
144 Ware Road
704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist Church
101 W. Mountain Street
704-739-2516

Life of Worship Ministries
405 S. Cherokee St.
704-777-2927



Featured Church of the Week: True Gospel Holiness Church

Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.

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