

Looking Up



What is worship? Often we imagine that worship is only what happens between 10:30 and 11:30 am on Sunday mornings. Yet what we do in this hour isn't the *climax* of our faith – instead it is the foundation – the beginning of the story – the inspiration and the fuel for the rest.

How much sense would it make to fill a car with gas, but never drive it? To fill up a cup with water, but not drink it? To put a fresh bulb in a lamp, but never switch it on? To put toothpaste on the brush and then put it back in the cabinet? What we receive on Sunday mornings is the gas, the water, the bulb, and the toothpaste, and when we leave the sanctuary is the time to use them – to drive, to drink, to shine, to brush.

Worship is meeting God, *and* it's what we do after we meet God, our response to the encounter.

Time at a community meal, a gift to Kids Hope United, a meal for your neighbor, watching out for the friend who needs extra help around the house, the child you mentored or fostered, a visit to the jail or the nursing home, the protest you walked in, or the 5K walk you did for a worthy cause – whatever we do to make the world more merciful and just: that is worship, too.

This is a lot like what happened to Zacchaeus in Luke's gospel. He met Jesus, Jesus welcomed him, and Zacchaeus's response was to give to the poor and repay his fraud.

This Thanksgiving, did you eat any delicious turkey? Perhaps you're the one who makes the turkey. How do you do it? What's your secret?

I learned my method from Jeff's mom, and it works like magic: a Reynold's Turkey Bag and a disposable EZ Foil Pan. It keeps the turkey moist and then, at the end of the day, there's no messy pan to worry about.

A couple of years ago, I was riding my bike along the Lakeshore Drive path, and couldn't help but notice a new sculpture that had been installed, so I stopped to take a closer look. The sculpture, a giant tin man, created by Tom Friedman, is called "Looking Up," which is exactly what he's doing – staring at the sky. I stood next to him, to catch the view with him – and to take his advice to stop and look up.

And then, as I got closer, I noticed what he was made out of – recycled, EZ Foil turkey pans! All of our turkey pans turned into a 33-foot reminder to stop and look up. Yes, turkey pans beaten into wonder!

Why would Friedman choose this medium? Maybe there's a little humor in there like, hey, you turkeys, look up! ... I'm not sure. But this sculpture is a wake-up call when we are on our phones and rushing around, or thinking of ridiculous or stressful things, and failing to notice the wonder around us. This would have especially been so in its original location on a busy corner of Park Avenue in New York City. For Christians, it's a reminder to stop and listen for God, to begin our worship again.

Each Sunday as the postlude plays, I hope you'll feel that your worship hasn't ended for the week, but that it has just begun, fueled by wonder, and that your days will unfold in acts of helping and justice and love that turn out to be that other kind of "worship service."

Peace & Joy

Jayne Majzan, Moderator



They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.

Tomm Bodett

I recently read this quote and was struck by the simple honesty of the words. As we begin another holiday season and close out another year at warp speed, these three ideas made perfect sense to me; I hope you will consider them, too.

Someone to Love

Where would we be without our loved ones? At this season, take time to remember how truly blessed we are to have our families and friends around us – and take a few more moments to remember those who have passed and left us precious holiday memories to cling to going forward.

Something to Do

What did our parents always tell us? “Go find something to do.” My life is filled with “To Do” lists – in fact, I can’t remember a time when I didn’t have one! It’s easy to fill up a list of things to do at the holidays – we’re always out shopping, home cooking or wrapping gifts, etc. In January and beyond, however, having enough projects to fill our schedules may become more challenging. How about volunteering in 2019? As Aristotle said over 2300 years, ago, “What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.” In my opinion, the greatest thing about volunteering may be the benefits it offers to your neighbors, your communities, and you!

Something to Hope For

Hopes and Dreams – aren’t these the quintessential holiday concepts? As children, we held our breath as we left notes for Santa in hopes of finding the perfect gift under our tree. As we’ve grown, our hopes at Christmas have turned to gifts that defy wrapping – wishes for a healthy spouse and family, finding more peace and less stress through a strong relationship with God, and spending more time in community with friends. Consider your hopes for 2019 – I wish you not only peace and joy, but fulfillment of your hopes and dreams for the coming year.



AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

There is an anthem the choir sings some Communion Sundays. It is by Jay Althouse, a prolific composer of sacred music. The title of the anthem I have in mind is, *At the Table of the Lord*. In the final verse, the choir sings these words,

At the table of the Lord, we are meeting,
In communion, we are many in one.
For wherever we are gathered, there our Lord will be,
At the table of the Lord, we shall be free.

During my sabbatical travels, I found these words to be true at a level, and in a way, that filled and nourished my soul. No matter whether I was in Chaffee, NY, San Jose, CA; Philadelphia, PA or Plymouth MA; when God's children gathered around dining room tables, diner tables, kitchen tables, Communion tables or tables made of knees and napkins we were in communion and we were drawn together as one. In churches large and small, in communities of Swedes and Italians, in towns historic or newly named; we recognized the presence of our Lord in one another and in the space that His presence made holy. In each church, our conversations wondered about the future and honored the past. During each visit, names were intoned, and new names were proudly remembered. Moreover, when we found ourselves questioning what might come in the days ahead, we returned to the perennial nature of the table. It has always been present in Christian life. It has always been filled with abundance. Moreover, it will always be present, though those around it will shift and change and come and go. However, even though our worry and our wonder, we smiled because we believe whenever, wherever the table is set, there our Lord will be.

In one place, an 88-year *young* woman said, "People will always be hungry. They will always have to come for dinner. As long as we have good food to feed them at the Spaghetti supper or on Sunday, well, we will be the place to be." My CCB brothers and sisters, truer words were never spoken. As you and I wonder and worry about the future of the "C"hurch or about CCB, as long as we strive to set the table with love and grace, we will be the *place to be*.

Yes, during my travels I learned many things, too many to record in this brief moment. However, the one thing I heard over and over is that the church must be the place where people are free to be whom God has called them to be; we must be the place that is a safe place and where *anyone* can come and be transformed by the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

How do we accomplish that? How do we reach into ourselves and the world and extend an invitation that is so authentic those who need that love and grace will trust us and come in? Let's work on that together. Let's work on being a place of healing place, a place of joyful gathering, where Jesus is found in soul filling teaching and preaching, in belly laughter, in true fellowship, and in relationships seek to strengthen and build on everyone's strengths.

I am so glad to be back among you, my brothers and sisters at the corner of compassion and acceptance. I am glad to be back home. I am so glad to share the table of the Lord with you, where we are invited to come, to learn, to share, to transform and to be free. Can't wait to see what's next. *Pastor Zina*

MY FAVORITE THINGS....MY FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MEMORY...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



A couple weeks ago, the youth and I (Dr. Sami) were hanging out talking about Scrooge in the classic, 'A Christmas Carol'. We discussed how Mr. Scrooge's past truly caught up with him, and how it could affect his present and his future joy. As we talked, we thought about what are those memories that help shape our thoughts and views of the holidays. Jesus is the reason for the season of course, but here are a few of the past memories that bring joy to the youth.

My favorite memory of Christmas is when we would wake up very early in the morning and knock on the parents' door. After that, we would all gather at the top of the stairs and wait till they opened the door to their room and came out. Then we could go down the stairs and find our seats before the two that volunteered got to pass out the presents. Next we would take time opening our presents. The top of the stairs, gathering together and waiting...that's my favorite memory. –Nikki Powers

My favorite Christmas memory was when all the members of my family came together one year to celebrate. My family lives all over the place and so normally all of them don't get to come, but when they were all there at once, it was so much fun and it made me really happy. – Zandra Palomo

My favorite holiday memory was when my family and I went to Galena and we stayed at our family friends' house. The house was unfinished so we slept on mattresses on the floor and the wall was open so we had to be careful not to fall through! We also walked around Galena, and it was a lot of fun walking around the stores. Then at night we all cuddled on the couch and watched Goosebumps and other movies. –Belle Roig

Favorite Christmas memory is spending the whole day with my cousins, grandparents, aunt and uncle, eating good food and playing games. –Madison Jensen

I have this memory of spending Christmas Eve with my mom's family, spending Christmas day with my immediate family and spending the next few days with my dad's family in Wisconsin. Then coming home directly to a friend's house for dinner and games. Lots of fun. –Mark Luchsinger

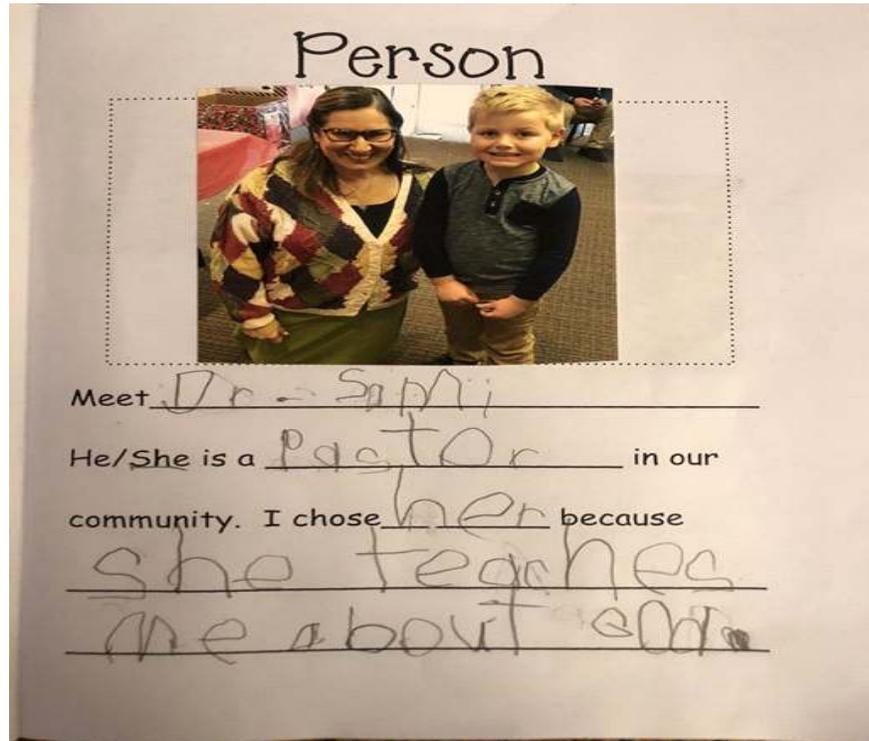
A tradition I did with my brother every year for Christmas was on Christmas Eve- he and I would hide in the house and try to spy and see Santa put the presents down. Obviously now that my brother and I are older, we don't do that anymore. But it is always funny to talk about how every year we tried to stay up all night and every year we fell asleep and woke up to all the presents under the tree and Santa gone! The cookies and the milk gone! We'd always look at each other and say, "Well, better luck next year". We'd shake hands and go our separate ways. –Jessica Petrillo



Remember Joy is not in things, it is in us. May the Joy of Christ be in each of you this season. Blessings to you from Dr. Sami and all the youth, those pictured and those not© Ho! Ho! Ho!

SOMEONE YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Please meet **Leo DeBartolo**, he is one of the children at Community of Barrington. Recently he was asked to introduce one of the people that makes a difference in his life. Leo is in Kindergarten.



THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT- DECEMBER 16, 2018

Mark your calendars: the youth Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 16th from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The youth and children will lead worship, and they look forward to sharing this time with you.

The candle being lit that day is the one of Joy, and so we welcome you to come and share the joy with them and your faith family as we learn together about Scrooge and his redemption. If he is redeemable, maybe there is hope for us all.

The youth will also have a table of treats for those that need last minutes gifts and cookies to share with your friends and family. Oh yes, they will be at holiday prices. All proceeds will go toward their mission trip fund



Birthdays

12-9-18 Brenda Overby
12-14-18 Cindy Alton
12-21-18 Hailey Campe
12-29-18 Michael Jahnke

Anniversaries

12-31-18 Deb & Gaylord Viller

G.R.O.W. The ladies of GROW will meet on **Thursday, December 20th at the church at 11:30.** All women of the church are invited. Please RSVP to the church office by **Monday, December 17th. There will be a white elephant gift exchange.**



WOMEN WHO BREAKFAST - Join us **December 5th** for breakfast and coffee, or just drop in for a chat at the Bread Basket 7:30 a.m. All ladies are welcome.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at the church. This month they will meet on December 8th and 22nd.

Book Club will meet this month on **Tuesday December 18th** in the Adult Sunday School Room. Join us for lively discussion. See Jayne Majzan for more information.



POTLUCK— Join us for Potluck on **Wednesday, December 12th.** Bring a dish to pass and prepare to share fellowship and great conversation with all who attend. It starts at 6:00 pm.

The office will be closed from **December 24th through January 1st** for the **Christmas and New Years Holidays.**

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

As in years past, Community Church has chosen to share God's blessings with our neighbors and friends in the Barrington 220 School District. Known as the boot church, we are on target to support the 2018 Barrington Giving Day by purchasing and donating children's winter boots. To date, we have collected 25 pairs of boots, but we would love to double that number in the next week. If you have not purchased a pair, please do so. Consider sharing the purchase with a family member of a friend. We will bless the boots on Sunday, December 2nd and deliver them to the Barrington Giving Day folks on Monday, December 3rd.



However, if you are given to shopping for clothes and toys, we have ***just the opportunity for you.*** Thanks to Peer Lykke and members at Willow Creek, we have an opportunity to be Yuletide Angels, making area children's Christmas bright. Please consider taking a tag off the Angel Tree in the church Narthex. These tags represent wishes from the children of local men & women who are currently incarcerated and unable to purchase clothes, toys, etc. for their families. The tags will be coming to CCB by Sunday, December 3rd, and all purchases should be returned to Community Church by mid-December –

look for more information regarding specific dates to come in the weekly Flash and Sunday Bulletin.

Thank you for opening your hearts and sharing your blessings with God's most precious ones, our children. Blessings.

December 2018

Monthly Planner

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Community Church of Barrington
407 S. Grove Avenue
Barrington IL 60010



Christmas Is....

easyday.snydle.com

Christmas is not about gifts and toys
It's the time when people rejoice
Christmas is not about food and drinks
It's not about this world as everybody thinks.

Christmas is about everlasting love
It's thanking the Lord for what we all have
Christmas is about sharing and family
It's about Christ who love us fully.

