



Did Jesus Really Die for Our Sins? by Pastor Kathy Itzin

This is what we were taught, but what does that mean? Did God plan for Jesus, the Beloved Son, to die such an awful death? Why do we think a 'sacrifice for sin' is even necessary? Wouldn't God love us enough to want to be with us after our deaths, without Jesus having to die?

The whole idea of Jesus' death being 'a sacrifice for our sins' wasn't promoted by the early church. It took over a thousand years before this idea was published by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1097. He, (St. Anselm) thought of our relationship with God in legal terms. He reasoned that:

- We sinned (committed a crime) against God. Crime deserves punishment.
- A just God must demand payment for the crime. Jesus is the payment.
- Through Jesus' death, all sin is forgiven.

That's the theory that many of us learned. **It was not what Jesus said, or what the Gospel writers believed.**

When Jesus walked the earth, people believed that demonic spirits lived in people and organizations (like the Roman government). Jesus always stood against these 'evil' powers. When Jesus was killed, but then rose to life again, they saw this as God's 'No' to oppressive powers, and God's 'Yes' to everything Jesus taught. It was Jesus' conclusive defeat of evil, and God's triumph for all time. ***"Jesus disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in the cross."* (Colossians 2: 15)**

In Jewish law, there were certain kinds of sin that could only be atoned (made up for) by sacrifice. The only place you could sacrifice an animal was the temple in Jerusalem, so the temple (and religion) had a monopoly on forgiving sin. The early Christians coined the phrase, "Jesus is the sacrifice for sin" (not the temple) or "Jesus died for our sins." Jesus, did away with the temple laws. We don't need the temple as a go-between anymore. Jesus now gave them direct access to God.

St. Paul experienced Jesus as God's embodiment of dying to an old way of life, and instead, embracing God's new Way. Paul said, ***"I have been crucified in Christ; it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me."* (Galatians 2:19-20)** The cross, symbolic of the internal transformation, was shown by Jesus to be "the Way." ***"Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the light."* (John 14: 6)**

What does all of this mean? When the New Testament was written, there were several understandings of what Jesus' death meant. The worse thing in the world had happened, and God triumphed. Jesus loved God (and the world) so much that nothing would stop him from living a life of integrity and love. That was and is, his Passion. He lived Passionately throughout his life, and in his death. The great news is that he succeeded in his passionate mission. Jesus was God's 'Yes' to love and to life!

March Scriptures

March 4 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20: 1-17 (God gives the Ten Commandments)

John 2: 13-22 (Jesus throws the cheating moneychangers out of the temple)

March 11 4th Sunday in Lent

Psalms 107: 1-3, 17-22 (Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever)

John 3: 14-21 (God so loved the world that he gave his only son. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through him)

March 18 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 (This is the covenant that I will make...I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another...for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest)

John 12: 20-33 (unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it multiplies)

March 25th Palm Sunday

Psalms 118: 1-2, 19-29 (Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ... This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it)

Mark 11: 1-11 (Jesus rides a colt into Jerusalem, and the crowds were thrilled to see him)



Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch will meet at Lynde's, 209 County Road 81 in Osseo on March 8 at 11:30 a.m. This is a down-to-earth, family-operated eatery offering homestyle American meals & daily specials. Please call the church and let us know you will be coming. All are welcome! This is a lively bunch to lunch with.

March Coffee Hour: Creative Worship

March Drivers

Flowers

4 Dave Hendel	4 Open
11 Char Merz	11 Open
18 Dave Hendel	18 Open
25 Char Merz	25 In memory of Bob & Lucille Ross and Kathy Moore from the Hendels and the Haugheys.

E-mail address: parkwayucc@gmail.com

Rev. Kathy's e-mail: parkwayuccpastor@gmail.com

Parkway Courier

Charlene Merz, Editor

The deadline for the April Courier is March 21.

Please bring your articles to the church office or email them to Parkwayucc@gmail.com

All articles are appreciated!

Three Great Loves During Lent!

Three Great Churches on Maundy Thursday!

As we continue to work, personally and as a church, to Increase God's Love in the World, we welcome three speakers in March. On Thursdays, March 1st, 8th, and 22nd, we will have excellent presentations on three areas of local and global concern. Each follows a soup and bread supper from 6:15 – 7:00. The presentations will begin at 7:00 and conclude at 8:00.

Three Great Churches will gather here on Maundy Thursday, March 29th for dinner and table service of communion. Dinner will be Mideastern food from Athens Greek restaurant in Robbinsdale. We welcome Union UCC from St. Louis Park, and Robbinsdale UCC to join us in this great dinner, and great service! Dinner will begin at 6:30.

Thursday, March 1, Jim Koon will tell us about the SafeNights program. Most homeless high school students experience temporary homelessness for 3-5 days. Although they are often able to return home after that, during that time their schooling is interrupted, and it is very hard for them to 'catch up'. Safenights receives referrals from a School Homelessness Liaison, then arranges temporary lodging for the student at a local church. Safenight staff watches over the student during the time they shelter at the church. Come learn about this program!

3Great Loves: Love of Children.

Thursday, March 8th, Janet Brown of Climate Generation will present "A Climate Change and Clean Energy Conversation." Janet participated in the French Climate Change Summit. "Climate change is here and now. We are already seeing significant effects in Minnesota from extreme weather events, droughts in our farming communities, biome shifts, invasive species, firestorms, and four one-thousand-year floods in the last ten years. We are all paying the price for climate change, but it is not all doom and gloom. Minnesota has tremendous capacity to not only reduce our carbon emissions, but to build our green economy and job market with access for all. Join Janet Brown, Associate Director of Climate Generation: as we review the latest climate science, learn about clean energy solutions happening now and explore what you can do to make a difference.

3Great Loves: Love of Creation

Thursday, March 22nd, Danette Buskovich (previous Parkway Member) will present "Sex Trafficking in Minnesota." Danette works for the Office of Justice, previously working with the issue of Sex Trafficking. She gave an excellent presentation on Human Trafficking several years ago. She now works for Hennepin County Office of Corrections and Community Rehabilitation, and will let us know the latest on this important issue! **3Great Loves: Love of Neighbor**

Thursday, March 29: Three Great Loves: Parkway, Robbinsdale, and Union UCC celebrate Maundy Thursday Dinner Service 6:30! Join us!



Definition, Statistics, Symptoms

The first of three articles on mental disorders by Dianne Star.

What are mental illnesses/mental disorders? They are health conditions that involve significant changes in thinking, emotion or behavior. They create distress or problems functioning in family, social, school or work activities. Causes are not well understood, but the symptoms are scientifically valid and known.

Mental disorders are divided into three broad categories – adult, childhood, and personality. Mental illnesses are also defined as chronic or adjustment disorders. Chronic means ongoing and lifelong. Examples include some depression and anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, and psychosis. An adjustment disorder is a response to an identifiable stressor within the past 3 months. Once the stressor or its consequences has ended, the symptoms usually do not persist for more than 6 months. Depressions and anxiety disorders related to death of loved one, birth of child, loss of job are often adjustment disorders.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), about 43.8 million adults experience mental illness in a given year. About 10 million adults live with a serious mental illness. One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by age 14; three-quarters by age 24. Approximately 26% of homeless adults live with a serious mental illness, and approximately 24% of state prisoners have a recent history of a mental health issue. One in five persons ages 13-18 have or will have a serious mental illness. 37% of them will drop out of school, and 70% of them will find themselves in the juvenile justice system. 90% of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness. Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among persons ages 10-24, and the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S.

Symptoms and signs of mental disorders include feeling sad, excessive worry, withdrawal from friends and activities, inability to cope with daily problems, excessive anger or hostility, alcohol or drug abuse, detachment from reality (hallucinations, delusions), extreme mood changes.

If you or someone you know have any of these symptoms, please see a doctor or a mental health specialist. Suicidal thinking is very serious. Please reach out to someone immediately or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

March is Food Share Month!

Be a Hero!

This year the Board of Community Outreach, is expanding their soup drive. They are asking for your help by bringing in non-perishable meals such as, La Choy chow mein, Banquet boxed meals, Franco-American type of canned meals, and of course soup. Food donations may be put in the shopping cart in the social hall.



clare housing

PARTNERS IN AIDS CARE



By Tom Ley

Today, 7,500 people in Minnesota are living with HIV/AIDS. Fifty percent of them will be homeless or have a housing crisis during the course of their illness. Clare Housing provides affordable housing and supportive services to low-income residents who have experienced homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

Individuals living at Clare Housing apartments and group homes receive supportive services, such as nursing care, medication administration, hands-on assistance with activities of daily living, and help with building independent living skills.

Our core group of volunteers (Kevin Korell, Tom Ley, David Goettsch. And Patrick Liestman) attended an orientation for their Supper Club program recently. In this program, we go to a group home and serve a meal we prepare either in advance or at their house. This goes one step beyond just serving a meal for folks. It allows for a more traditional “breaking of bread” with the residents in their home where they are comfortable. This allows for us to bring them fellowship, companionship, or just chit-chat. The visit is around 90 minutes once a month. Two of us would cover each month, so with a few more volunteers and on-call backups it might be only once every three or four months.

We are asking for your prayers, of course, and your help. This might be preparing a dish for us to take, coming along for supper and a visit, or cards, crafts, or any other little things we can give or take to brighten the life of the residents. To some of these folks, this may be the only time they get to “feel” supported and loved by community.

On a personal note, as most of you know I have been HIV+ for over 20 years, and while I have not had to use this service, it was something I tried to access when I was significantly ill, however at the time there were not enough spaces for me to get one. Even now with much more capacity there is still a waiting list to get in. These folks are given a chance to get well though Clare, and in many circumstances the only way they will get well. Most of them have \$600 or less in monthly income and they are required to pay 30% of that to Clare, so there are needs they still have.

There are also ways to get involved other than the Supper Club via donations, etc. There is a flyer and info pamphlet on the church bulletin board with more info. PLEASE seek out myself or Kevin Korell if you want more info. I will be the main contact for this effort so if you have specific questions or such please email me to let me know. (tommyley2004@yahoo.com) Thank you wonderful people of Parkway for your consideration.



News of the Boards

Board of Diaconate

The board met on February 11.

Focus during Lent will be the UCC Three Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation. (See article)

Carol will create a sign up sheet for soup and bread for each date. Dinner will be served from 6:15 - 7:00 with the presentation from 7:00 – 8:00.

Maundy Thursday: March 29th will be set up for about 100. Volunteers will be needed to help set up, although the food will be catered. The three ministers from Union, Robbinsdale, and Parkway will plan the service.

Palm Sunday: Only large palms on individual pews, no individual palms. The service will focus on the Hosanna (Palm Sunday) events, rather than also including Good Friday.

Easter, April 1: Bonnie will arrange for a brass quartet.

Board of Finance

The board met on February 14. The Dedicated Funds were outdated and some did not exist anymore, so the board went through and re-allocated the names or the funds to be more appropriate for the needs of the church.

The Endowment Fund gained \$6500 during the month of January. An article was written for the Courier in February about Membership Dues and we have begun to receive some from members.

Board of Community Outreach

The board met on February 4. The food donations were sorted and organized.

March is Food Share Month, so the board decided to expand beyond soup, and ask for non-perishable meals.

North Memorial Hospital collected food in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and decided to donate the food to Parkway's food shelf. We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to:

North Memorial Health - Human Resources and SEIU Healthcare MN for their generous donation.

Board of Property Report

This board did not meet in February, however, Jim Jarvimaki repaired a panel above the inside double doors that had become loose that houses the controls for the handicapped doors. The outside sign needs a new piece of plexiglass that is being ordered from NorthEnd Hardware, and a 20 amp resettable fuse was installed in the fuse box in the kitchen.

Council

Council met on February 15. As well as the items reported for the above boards:

Church Planning: Kathy reported that they won't meet until things get moving with other churches. The pancake supper was a big success, though not many from Union. Our next event together is Maundy Thursday. She spoke with Rick Wagner and he agreed that it's good to share our strengths, though he cannot speak with us. There is a Presbyterian church on Penn that we are considering. Kathy will be meeting with Salem Lutheran next week.

Minister's Report. On April 7th, all three churches will have a joint council meeting. Jan Schwarz and Gerry Hartley both had surgery and are doing well. Families Moving Forward was a great group of families. They were very helpful and want to come back to volunteer after they find housing. Kathy thanked Emily and Sharon for working many hours this year.

New Business. Kathy discussed that Council needs to provide the food at the next linger lunch. Emily reminded us not to forget the glazing on the windows upstairs, they are leaking cold air.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Gerry Hartley
Rose Marie Lund – (Durand's daughter)
Jim & Kay Leerssen
Marlene Mars
Harriet Thompson
Parkway Church
Eunice Shore
Brett Sprague
Laura Mylan - (Friend of Janet Zahn)
Jan Schwarz
Karen Anderson
Terri Lipelt - (Todd's brother)
Jimmy Johnson - (Sharon Chafin's cousin)
Lisa Flynn - (Carol Anderson's niece)
Randy Bultman – (Tom Ley's cousin)
Steven, Shawn and Jessie - (Terri's family)
Veralyn and Dennis Bash - (sister and brother-in-law of Lester Boerger)
Paul and Donita Boerger - (Lester Boerger's parents)
Erin Gaines - (Frank Gaine's daughter-in-law)
Sandy Thompson - (Bob and Evie Thompson's daughter-in-law)

Bob Freeman - (Cancer surgery)
Donelle Arkley - (Michael Snitker's sister)
Grace Ashley-(Ro Shanklin's sister-in-law)
Maxine Rogers - (Lonnie Rose's sister)
Pam Eckert - (Friend of Dawn Stroschein)
Alan Johnston - (Alice Johnston's son)
Judy Oelkers - (Pat Durand's cousin)
Frank Gaines
Lu Butler
A.J. Houle - (Dick and Nancy Larson's son-in-law)
Sheryl Griefe - (Friend of Dick and Nancy)
Terry Nolan
Jean Rossmar - (David Goettsch's sister)
Carl Colburne - (Jean Rossmar's partner)
Bill Morrison



1	Jeana Carter	15	Carol Anderson
2	Dick Larson	15	Phil Jennings
7	Sarah Shaffer	16	Jeff Zhang
8	Dick Silverness	23	Greg Merz
9	John Stoltzfus	25	Margaret Kleinhenz
14	Patrick Liestman	30	Alyssa Lewis

HAPPY/THANKFUL OFFERINGS

We are offering this gift because we are happy and/or thankful for:

February 11, 2018

I am thankful for my family
and friends at Parkway!
-Travis Bloomquist

February 11, 2018

Victoria and her Birthday
on February 10!
-Carol

Parkway Courier

An Open and Affirming Church

Telephone: 612-522-2982

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Worship Service: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Monday – Thursday

Rev. Kathy Itzin, Senior Minister

Charlene Merz, Administrative Assistant

Bonnie McClain, Director of Music

Daniel Ritter, Organist

Carolyn Hendel, Bell Choir Director

Molly Merz, Custodian

**Published by and for members and friends of
PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



One Great Hour of Sharing March 11 By Ann Jarvimaki for the Board of Community Outreach

It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God's world: there is hunger, sickness, and injustice in so many communities. It is easy to feel there is nothing we can do to help. We can feel trapped by hopelessness and fear that, what little we can do—won't have an impact.

Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't foresee. Our gifts become a blessing to people we don't know and blesses in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine.

A house is a structure with some walls, a roof, doors, and windows. The house becomes a home when it is a place where you can feel safe and loved. When you're at home, you can let your guard down. You can relax and rest.

Some people have seen their homes destroyed by hurricanes and other natural disasters. Overnight their house was stripped of being a home. The family that lived there was afraid with no where to go. Each of God's children deserves to be safe and protected no matter where they live.

Your gift to OGHS can help rebuild the lives of these families. Please give generously.



Parkway United Church of Christ

March 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:15 Soup Dinner 7:00 Lenten Program	2	3 2-5 Truth in Spirit
10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	5 7 p.m. Victory AA	6 10 a.m. Bible Study 5-8 Truth in Spirit	7 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Choir Practice	8 11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch Bunch 6:15 Soup Dinner 7:00 Lenten Program	9	10  <i>Set clocks ahead!</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time</i> <i>starts March 11</i>
11 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	12 7 p.m. Victory AA	13 10 a.m. Bible Study 5-8 Truth in Spirit	14 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Choir Practice	15 7 p.m. Council	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 
18 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	19 7 p.m. Victory AA	20 10 a.m. Bible Study 5-8 Truth in Spirit	21 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Choir Practice <i>Courier Deadline</i>	22 6:15 Soup Dinner 7:00 Lenten Program	23	24 2-5 Truth in Spirit
25 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Linger Lunch 12:30 CWOW	26 7 p.m. Victory AA	27 10 a.m. Bible Study 5-8 Truth in Spirit	28 Wedding rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:00 Choir Practice	29 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service in Social Hall	30 Wedding at 3 p.m. in Sanctuary	31 2-5 Truth in Spirit