



Jesus our Prophet, Priest, and King

When Jesus walked along the road to Emmaus with a couple disciples after his resurrection, we're told that Jesus schooled them: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). That's a conversation I would have loved to have been in! Afterwards these two disciples shared with each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" What these two disciples were shown by our Lord is how completely he was anticipated by the Old Testament. Even though popular Jewish expectations of the Messiah led Israel to reject Christ, the truth about his identity and mission is there, embedded in the entire Old Testament from Moses through the prophets!

Listen to how John Calvin, the Swiss reformer summarizes "the Scriptures concerning" Jesus: "To know the purpose for which Christ was sent by the Father, and what He conferred upon us, we must look above all at three things in Him: the Prophetic office, Kingship, and Priesthood." This Advent our themes will trace out how the Old Testament laid out the hope that God would "raise up" a prophet, priest, and king for the redemption of his people. Indeed, understanding what it means for Jesus to fulfill these three roles is central to our understanding of him as our Redeemer, our mediator with God, the Father. To aid us in our reflection, we will be distributing an Advent devotional with the goal that each of us set time aside for daily reading and prayer. This devotional uses a format borrowed from *A Guide to Prayer for All God's People*. Look for it at our Sunday worship services.

We also have a couple special events planned for this Advent season. On Sunday, December 16th, we are hosting the Taproot Theatre Company's production of *An Improv Christmas Carol*. You'll recognize the classic Christmas story but with some comedic improvisation in response to our audience input. We have invited Emmanuel Bible Church to join us for this fun event, and we'll share a potluck dinner afterwards in the gym. Then on Sunday, December 23rd, we'll have our traditional service of Lessons and Carols. This is a beautiful service that combines the reading of the Christmas story from the Scriptures with the singing of your favorite Christmas Carols.

Over the four Sundays of Advent, children ages 5 and older are invited to come to the sanctuary at the beginning of the worship service for singing and the lighting of the Advent candles. On December 2nd and 9th they will be dismissed to their classrooms, but they will remain for both the Taproot play and or service of Lessons and Carols. Finally, if you would like Advent candle lighting cards to use at home, they will be available with the devotional on Sunday, December 2nd.

Merry Christmas!

The Pastor's Letter

- by Andrea Zikakis



Dear C Cer,

If you've been part of CC for any length of time, you know that Core Groups are highly valued. We believe that Cores provide an incredible opportunity to better know God, one another, and ourselves.

Over the past several years, I've had the opportunity to dialogue with many people regarding their Core experience. And as you can imagine, the comments have spread the gamut. Some people's experiences have positively transformed their lives, while others have had negligible or negative experiences. With this in mind, I'd like to spend the rest of this letter encouraging us towards improving our experience, no matter where we are on the spectrum.

It's quite common to believe that if you have the 'right' people in a group then community will happen pretty easily and effortlessly. Although all of us have experienced moments like this, this is not typically how *growth* happens. Most significant relationships take work. I realize at first hearing, this may not sound like good news. In fact, it may *seem* like motivation not to enter into deeper relationship – but if we're tempted that way, I ask us to reconsider.

If we want to experience God more fully it's essential to recognize that we need each other more than we can imagine. Part of this is being made in God's image. God exists in community and we're intended to live in it as well. Bill Donahue and Russ Robinson say it this way in their book *Building a Church of Small Groups*: "It is not enough to say God is interested in community or even obsessed with community. God, rightly defined and understood, *is* community." They remind us that most of Jesus' lasting ministry was done in the midst of some prickly small groups, and that the only prayer that Jesus prayed that remains to be fulfilled is that the church would be One like He and His Father are One. For Christians, community, with all its gifts and problems, is non-negotiable. However, our culture entices us to believe that comfort matters more than community and tries to sell us short.

Just this past week, I've talked to a few people about Core – some expressed excitement, others frustration. One woman told me how good her Core was because together they had an honest

conversation about what each was hoping for. It took courage for each member to speak but each did and the outcome was beneficial for everyone. The core facilitators have more confidence in leading now, and the members have more incentive for attending and participating.

Conversely, I had a conversation with someone who was struggling with Core. He felt like there was a miss in a conversation that he initiated and his attitude was being affected. My encouragement to him was not "let go and let God" but rather to see this as an opportunity for godly growth. I asked him to step back into conversation with even more vulnerability and honesty. Instead of discussing it from a purely logical standpoint, I asked him to explain it from a 'feeling' posture as well, which is far riskier than staying at the thought level.

You see, I'm convinced that Cores are intended to help us step into more honesty, which if done well, will foster more intimacy. Core is not just a place where all the "warm fuzzies" happen, Core is a place that is intended to be safe enough to handle the "gritty" as well. Not in a mean spirited way, but in humility. Cores are not always easy, but they should be good: places where we can discuss the inner workings of our soul, places that we can gently question the responses (or silence) of others, places where the "one anothers" of Scripture are truly applied – "love one another," "forgive one another," "confess your sins one to another," and "encourage one another." They sound so nice when there is no problem – but, wow, are they challenging when there is dissatisfaction. *Yet, very likely, this is where God is at work.*

So let me offer a few suggestions on how to pursue this: Core Facilitators – take time to ask how things are going. You can do it a couple ways – in your meeting or via e-mail. The goal is to not only give people permission to speak but genuine opportunity. Core Participants – take time to talk to members in your group, including the facilitators. If you're having problems, don't let them simmer as though your spiritual responsibility is simply to endure the year. Take the time to talk. As a friend once told me, "even if your voice quivers, speak." And everyone – listen. Listen to what the "Other" is saying – the "Other" being the person who spoke and the Spirit within them.

May this season of Core be one which we boast that God has done incredible things!

Merry Christmas!

Building Reminders

We have been in our new facility for TWO MONTHS! Each week things are running a little more smoothly as we get familiar with the building and figure out how to operate in a way that is hospitable and safe. Because there is so much learning going on that is translating into the formation of “how we’re going to do it,” we wanted to find a place to communicate about these things that affect us all. So for the next few months, you’ll be seeing this column in the Quad C! Our goal is to get everyone “in the know” so we can function together well.

Please enter the building through the worship center doors on 50th, even if you are late. For the safety of our children, we have instructed our Children’s Church teachers ***not*** to open any of the doors to the outside of the building ***during our service***.

After the service, we are locking the doors on 50th and unlocking the doors in the gym (on 49th). You may leave the building through the doors on 50th, but will only be able to reenter the building through the gym during coffee time.

After the worship service, there will be ***balls*** available for our children to play with on the south side of the gym (behind the divider). These balls can be found in a 35 gallon trash can, and are limited to 2 rubber four-square balls and a number of the lighter plastic balls. There will not be any footballs, basketballs, or other projectiles that could easily dislodge a coffee cup from your grip!

The four-square balls are for playing four-square, and the other balls for general play. Connie has already instructed children that the balls are ***not*** for kicking, but we would love your help reminding our kids during coffee time if you see it happening.

Lastly, we would like the food to remain on the gym floor level of the building. This helps are tremendously when it comes to cleaning up! So please feel free to grab food and eat in the gym or the Children’s worship room, but let’s keep it from heading up the stairs!

Thanks, The CC Staff

Join us in our Children’s Ministries Advent Project!

A Christmas Bazaar and Craft Party

Sponsored by the Children’s Ministries of EBC and Calvary Chapel

**Saturday, December 15, 2007
11:00AM to 2:00PM in the Gym**

Each Advent season, Children’s Ministries looks for a giving project that will help our children consider the joy of giving to and serving those less fortunate than themselves. This year, we have been invited to support Emmanuel Bible Church in a Christmas Bazaar and Craft Party for those staying in the Union Gospel Mission’s Women and Family Shelter, as well as some local families whose children attend B F Day Elementary. There will be a café style luncheon, caroling, card and craft making, and a bazaar for the children to shop for their parents and for moms to shop for their teens.

During our children’s church classes, we will be learning about the Union Gospel Mission and making decorations for the gym for the “big party” on December 15th. Our classes will also be stuffing gift stockings for the children from the mission who attend. Our Calvary Chapel children are also invited to purchase a gift to contribute to the bazaar, or to make sugar cookies for decorating on the day of the party. Lastly, our children are invited to come and make crafts and sing and help “host” the party with children from EBC.

How can you help? We need volunteers to come on the day of the event to help with set up and clean up, decorate the gym, help kids shop for their moms, help kids wrap their presents, and help with crafts. We also need items for the bazaar, as well as donated gift wrap, ribbons, food for the luncheon, and sugar cookies. You can sign up for any of these opportunities on Sunday, December 2nd, or by calling Michelle Huse or the church office. We look forward to serving in Jesus name with you!





Calvary Chapel meets on the corner of N 50th Street & Dayton Ave N in Seattle
 Phone: 206.633.4134
<http://www.ccseattle.org>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>The names on each day represent the current schedule for Prayer & Fasting. If you would like to join the rotation please contact the office.</p>						1 Kay S.
2 Safety Seminar 4:00pm in the Meeting Room Intercession – 4:00 PM Worship—5:00 PM New Comer Dinner—6:45 PM	3 Greg & Lisa D.	4 Jeff & Jeanie D.	5 Mom's In Community 9:30 AM Prayer Meeting at the Lilja's—8:30 PM TG 7:00 PM	6 Elder Meeting 7:00 PM Becky G.	7 Annabelle R.	8 Peter E.
9 Intercession – 4:00 PM Worship—5:00 PM Renee L.	10 Troy S.	11 Bill & Kris H.	12 TG 7:00 PM @ the church Connie S.	13 Jessica B.	14	15 Christmas Bazaar 11—2
16 Potluck Dinner with EBC Taproot Theatre Company 5:00 PM Julia A	17 Bill G.	18 Garrett B. & Michelle Q.	19 Mom's In Community 9:30 AM Prayer Meeting at the Lilja's—8:30 PM TG 7:00 PM Jim & Chikako M.	20 Jerry & Daelene K.	21 TG Movie Night Doug W.	22 Mark & Claire W-T.
23 Intercession – 4:00 PM Lessons & Carols 5:00 PM Ian H.	24 Scott & Kristen O.	25 Office Closed Kristie E.	26 NO TG Erik L.	27 Lauren H.	28 Andrea Z. & Angie D.	29 Kay S.
30 Intercession – 4:00 PM Worship—5:00 PM	31 TG New Year's Party Greg & Lisa D.					



4900 Dayton Ave N
 Seattle, WA 98103