As I talked with Ken Williams and Ted Polk this past week, we had the wonderful opportunity to reminisce about days gone by, days spent with family, friends, and other loved ones. I think I stay in a nostalgic mood these days. Whether it's remembering my very first 45 rpm record, which featured the 1966 song, "Snoopy and the Red Baron," which, by the way, peaked at #2 on the Hot 100 charts during the week of December 31, 1966, right behind the Monkees' "I'm a Believer" or the many special times with family and friends — I'm a nostalgic kind of person through and through. One portion of this morning's passage brought to remembrance a neat little box of items from my youth that has stayed part of all of our lives to this very day! "What's that?" you ask. Those neat items are magnets! I used to love to play with my little box of 100 mini-magnets that my mom bought for me from the Spencer's Gift Store, back when it was family-friendly! I remember how they would either be irresistibly drawn to one another due to magnetic attraction, or they would repel each other like my semi-famous remembrance, "Scottie Dog" magnets! Does anyone remember those Scottie Dog Magnets? They would come two to a box, and if placed facing each other eye-to-eye, they would be drawn together. If placed nose-to-tail, they would repel each other! That was some pretty cool entertainment back in the day, but what does this have to do with our text for this morning? Glad you asked! As I read part of this morning's Scripture, the dual aspects of magnetic attraction and repulsion reaction of some to Jesus' life of grace, mercy, and love came to mind. In verse 32, we read, "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." We'll briefly consider the magnetic repulsion of some to Jesus and then those who are attracted, that is, drawn unto Him.

I. The Repulsion — At this time in Jesus' life, I believe Jesus' heart was aching for many reasons. Of course, His heart ached in anticipation of His impending death on Calvary's Cross. Add to that the hatred, betrayal, and rejection He faced. Within His life, we see some who were violently repulsed by His ministry of love and reconciliation. Let's take a quick stroll through the previous chapter or so and get a small glimpse of what may have also been going through Jesus' mind. As chapter 11 closes, the high priest Caiaphas, the chief priests and, the Pharisees assembled together to plan where their blind hatred of Jesus would lead them with this upstart Nazarene named Jesus. It's interesting to note that Caiaphas made a statement that was, in reality, a prophetic word about the sacrifice of Jesus for the world. In John 11:50-55, we read, "Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, 'You don't realize that it's better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed.' And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world." So, how do those with blind hatred think? I'm not even sure if "thinking" completely enters the picture. It seems to me that those with this devilish emotion engage in minimal thinking coupled with primitive outbursts of hate. We have seen it in the news for many years at this point.

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So, how do those with blind hatred think? I'm not even sure if "thinking" completely enters the picture. It seems to me that those with this devilish emotion engage in minimal thinking coupled with primitive outbursts of hate. We have seen it in the news for many years at this point.
Blind hatred does not see the good in a person's life or in the good in what they have done. Those given to blind hatred only see the perceived wrongs, their lowered status, being called out for their hypocrisy. They can be filled with the base desire to kill, steal and destroy the person or persons in their way. If that was not bad enough, other negative things were happening in Jesus' life as well. The Passover week was near. The blind hatred and jealousy of the aforementioned "religious" leaders led them to put out an "All-points Bulletin" to have Jesus seized at His first sighting in Jerusalem. That would be bad enough, but their hatred of this beloved rabbi was so great, they even desired to destroy a walking, talking miracle that was wrought at the hands of Jesus. Yes, in their hatred, they wanted to kill Lazarus, whom Jesus had recently raised from the dead. No, not all blind hatred might not go so far as to physically kill someone, but the desire is still there to cause as much emotional, spiritual, and/or professional damage as possible.

At this point, the machinery of Jesus' crucifixion was beginning its whir to deadly life. To compound matters, as chapter 12 opens, we see Jesus dining in Mary and Martha's home with Lazarus reclining at the table beside Jesus. Also in attendance was Judas, who would soon betray Jesus. Following these events is the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem where Jesus wept over Jerusalem since they missed their time of visitation. The Pharisees' even complained that the whole world has gone after Jesus. Indeed, things had arrived at the point of no return!

So what was Jesus' response? Let's go back and read the entire verse and see, "Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, Father, save me from this hour? But this is the very reason I came! 28 Father, bring glory to your name." (John 12:27-28) Jesus submitted to the Father's will and was victorious.

II. The Drawing/Attraction — The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." 33 He said this to indicate how he was going to die. "John 12:31-33"

As this portion of our passage for this morning closes, we see Jesus' words about the power of the evil one being thwarted and the incredible drawing power of His death, burial, and resurrection. Down through the centuries, millions have been drawn to Christ Jesus the Messiah. He was physically lifted up on the Cross of Calvary some 2,000 years ago. I believe that, and I also believe that every time we lift up His Holy Name in our Christian Witness, in our acts of love toward others, and in our lives, we shine the light of Christ into this dark world. He promised that when He was lifted up, He would draw everyone to Himself.

As you go forward this week, preach the Good News of Christ crucified, resurrected, and of the salvation, we have by grace through faith. Lift Him up with your words and your life so that you always testify of the glory of God. Remember that you have been blessed to be a blessing. So be one!

Pastor Gary

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**TREEHOUSE FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*Palm Sunday*  
March 28-April 3, 2021


**Family conversation cues (younger children)**

What does a celebration look like and sound like? Does it have music, decorations, special food? The story of Palm Sunday tells us about a celebration of Jesus in Bible times. What are some things your family can do to have a Jesus celebration?

**Family conversation cues (older children)**

The week before Jesus died started with lots of excitement because Jesus was coming to town. What are some of the things you think we should do if we found out Jesus was coming to our church? What are some reasons we would celebrate Jesus?

**Family Blessing**

We celebrate the great power and love of Jesus. [Family member’s name], Jesus loves you. Share his love with others. You are a blessing.
Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for a new season! Spring is a beautiful time of renewal and resurrection and we thank you for all the wonderful and beautiful changes you are making in the earth and in us.

Help us understand the season we are in. Spring is profound in its meaning, promise, and inspiration. May we soak up every ounce of new life and restoration that this season holds.

Thank you that we are coming out of darkness and into your magnificent light. With each hour of sunlight added to our day, remind us of your goodness and grace. Thank you that you paid the ultimate price so that we would never have to live in eternal darkness.

In this new season we ask for:

- New hope
- New joy
- New life
- New mercies
- New hearts
- New minds
- New gratitude
- New purpose
- New devotion
- New awareness of your presence

A big thank you to Spares and Pairs Sunday School class for a memorial made to the Pastor’s Benevolent Fund.

Also, thanks to Spares and Pairs for their donation made in honor of Pastor Gary to the Mulerider Market.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 25
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM  Church Office Hours
3:00 PM  STEWPOT

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

TREEHOUSE FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL at home
Lesson posted in newsletter, Facebook, and website.
Nursery is available from 9:00 am till 12:00 pm.
9:00 AM  FAMILY WORSHIP - Peace Hall (everyone)
9:30 AM  SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES—
CLEGG/OPEN DOOR—Pastor led by Roger Guevara
SPARES AND PAIRS—Averitt led by Cecil McConnell
Ways to attend: In-Person Zoom
Zoom link available on request for each class
CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL—Treehouse
CONFIRMATION CLASS—Confirmation room
10:45 AM  SANCTUARY WORSHIP (everyone)
Ways to attend: In-Person, Facebook Live, Recording
(posted later) on Website, YouTube
12:00 noon  Broadcast Channel 13 Sanctuary Worship
4:30 PM  YOUTH (Peace Hall)
5:30 PM  ADULT’S AND CHILDREN’S BIBLE STUDY
"IT IS FINISHED" IN PERSON AND ZOOM
Nursery is available.

MONDAY, MARCH 29
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM  Church Office Hours
4:00 PM  STEWPOT

TUESDAY, MARCH 30
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM  Church Office Hours
2:00 PM  THE CARING PLACE GREET AND GRAB
4:00 PM  STEWPOT
6:00 PM  CUB SCOUTS—Peace Hall

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM  Church Office Hours
7:00 PM  Broadcast Channel 13 Sun. 10:45 Worship

All in person events require sign-in, masks and social distancing.

A Record of Our Faithfulness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Offerings</th>
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</table>
| March 7th  | Family (9:00) 17
|            | Sun. School (9:35) 30
|            | Sanctuary (10:45) 32 $ 6,542.00
| March 14th | Family (9:00) 27
|            | Sun. School (9:35) 42
|            | Sanctuary (10:45) 45 $29,345.00
| March 21st | Family (9:00) 25
|            | Sun. School (9:35) 49
|            | Sanctuary (10:45) 38 $22,333.00

First United Methodist church
320 West Main
Magnolia, AR 71753

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