

Church of Christ

77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 563-2970

January 28, 2018

WHO ME, A WRETCH?

There are a few hymns that I really like, and “Amazing Grace” is one of them. But somehow, like so many other familiar tunes, the weight of the words soon gets lost in our familiarity with the song. From bagpipe bands, to presidential events, to state funerals, to gospel songfests, to nearly every church in America, “Amazing Grace” has been performed so many times that we easily become numbed to its profoundly disturbing message.

You know the first line by heart: “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me . . .” Hold on. Me—a wretch?!

None of us like to think about how wretched we are. We’d rather live in the self-delusion that compared to others we aren’t all that bad after all. We go to great lengths to look and feel good about ourselves. We exercise and diet to lose weight so we look good at the beach. We put makeup on in the morning so that we look good when we get to work. I ask my wife to help me pick out clothes so that I look good when I speak in church. And when someone says, “Hey, you’re lookin’ good!” we feel we have arrived.

But here’s the sobering news. If we were to look at ourselves the way God sees us even when we have it all together, we would see something totally different. He sees through all of our efforts to be “lookin’ good.” His vision probes far deeper than the all-too-cool clothes we wear, our makeup, our rippling abs and our great tan. He strips away the layers of self-delusion and penetrates deep into our hearts where each of us is a desperately lost sinner. And, no matter how good you think you are, it’s

not until we know that we are like condemned criminals before Him that we can begin to understand how amazing His grace really is. When you can honestly say that His grace saved a wretch like you, you can begin to stand in amazement at the greatness of His grace. In fact, His grace is only a “sweet sound” when you know how deep it had to go to clean you up!

What is God’s amazing grace? It’s the outstretched love of Jesus whose agonizing death and victorious resurrection saves us from who we really are—not from who we think we are. Romans 5:8 says: “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” He died the worst kind of death imaginable, because it needed to cover the wretchedness of our desperately lost souls. We weren’t lookin’ good when He died for us. If we were as cool as we think we are, He could have stayed in heaven. But like hopeless beggars trapped in the sludge of sin, we needed Him. And so He came and died in our place. Now that’s what I call amazing!

Getting over our self-deluded sense of coolness is step one toward reveling in the stunning grace of God. Every once in a long while someone will come up to me and say: “Hey, Stowell, you’re a really good man.” And while I like the sound of that, I know in my heart that I am not a good man. I’m a fallen man in desperate need of help. But by His grace I am a forgiven man. I thank God every day that there was a Really Good Man who lived on the earth 2,000 years ago who hung on a cross to save a wretch like me!

Joe Stowell
getmorestrength.org

PRAY FOR...

Alley, Donna & family: struggles
Baker, Hailey: Maddie’s friend, broken jaw
Ballard, Nikki: struggles
Ballard, Sophie: Nikki’s niece, struggles
Bier, Christina: health
Brownwood, Donna: Melinda’s relative, health
Burna, Bonnie: Carl’s aunt, cancer
Buskey, Tonya: Jackie’s sister, heart surgery
Cech, Terry: surgery to remove spots on bladder
Darling, Wendy: Carl & Cindy’s sister, broken ankle
Deeton, Mike: Katelyn’s friend, heart
Duprey, Karina: Earl’s niece, cancer
Elders: Alfred and Doug
Forette, Kevin: John’s friend, cancer
Jackson, Jessah: Amber’s friend’s daughter, leukemia
Kashorek, Lori: treatment options for lung cancer
Laramy, Paul: Steven’s brother, motorcycle accident
Lebeau, Steve & Gail: John’s friends, health struggles
Lermineau, Sean: Carl’s relative, struggles
LePage, Jim Sr. and Gail: Jim L’s parents, health
Loss: friends and family of Terry Seymour
Miller, Francis: Jody’s dad, tests
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, Ukraine, Zambia
Phillips, Cathy: Mary’s friend, struggles
Phillips, Florence: in the hospital
Provost, Emilie: raising Sorcha in the Lord
Shelters, Jill: Marlaina’s neighbor, struggles
Spencer Carrie: Alfred’s niece, health
Stone, Jack: health
Stapleton, Katelyn: struggles
Stowe, Kayonna: Nikki’s niece’s friend, cancer
Taylor, Robert Jr.: Nikki’s dad’s preacher friend, dying.
The Oasis Project
Underwood Residents: flooded housing
Waters, Scott: Eddie’s aide, biopsy
Whitfield, Freda: Mary Chambers’ mother, health
Willetts family: struggles

“Continue to help us keep this list updated and to pray for those mentioned in previous bulletins.”

Church of Christ
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office: 518-563-2970
www.plattsburghchurch.com

shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:

Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835
c645-1509

available: Fri 9-3 or by appt.

Schedule of Services

Sunday
Bible Class 10 A.M.
Morning Worship 11 A.M.

Wednesday
Bible Classes 6:30 P.M.

Welcome to Worship

The church of Christ that meets in Plattsburgh invites you to attend any of our services. We love having visitors and are honored for you to attend. We seek to follow the New Testament in all that we do in our worship services. Our primary aim in worship is to glorify and honor God by worshipping Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) Trusting in the promise of the gospel message, we now live out obedience to God's Word as our only authority and pattern for our lives and the church. We want to encourage you to come and learn, worship, grow, and serve the Lord with us! "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

From the Shepherds ...

We need to be a 'People of the Word.' Therefore, in 2018, we'd like all of our members to diligently study God's words that bring life! Whether you follow the published plan that will bring you through the Bible in a year or one of your own, stay in the Bible a little each day. A 30 Day Challenge (the NT in a month) and a significant-passage-per-day-through-the-Bible plans are available as well.



Fellowship Meal

We hope you will stay for our 1st Fellowship Meal since October (end of the month holidays cancelled in Nov. & Dec). Perhaps help us set up tables or get the food around! We really just want a chance to know you better.

We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for: Adults: John's class--Search For Truth, lesson 7 Youth classes as well ... and don't forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: our next 4th Sunday meal is 1/28 after morning service. Please invite a friend and bring a dish to pass.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: the next 1st Sunday breakfast is on 2/4 at 8 a.m.

Doug's Devotional

"Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing'" Luke 4:20-21.

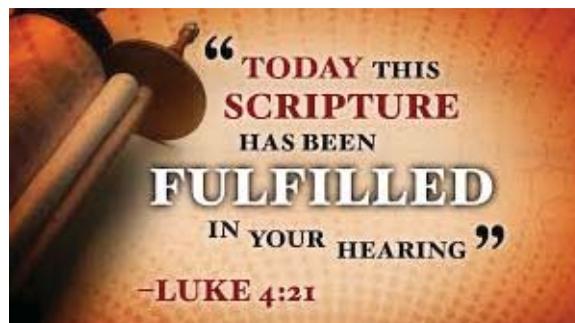
For centuries, God's chosen people had been expecting a Savior, God Himself. In one of those passages, Isaiah had written over 700 years before that the Messiah would fulfill certain requirements: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." After returning to Galilee after His baptism and temptation in the power of the Spirit, news spread about Him and He taught in the area's synagogues. It was in His hometown of Nazareth, however, where everyone knew Him as 'Joseph's son,' that He chose to declare Himself, through the fulfillment of Isaiah 61, to be the Christ and God Himself! No wonder those who remembered Jesus lugging tools for His earthly father were furious and wanted to drive Him off a cliff. Who do you understand Jesus to be?

New Brother!

On Thursday, 1/25, Anthony Vallee put on his Savior in baptism. Please encourage him in this new life he has chosen.

Mission Moment.

•Please pray for all our mission works.



Sundae Toppings

Today: 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal
2/4, 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
2/11, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time
2/18, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting; carpet cleaning



Key Word Search

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m., 11a.m. 7 p.m.

In Search of the Lord's Ways:
"What Lack I Yet"

Key to the Kingdom:
"A God of Faithful Love"



2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 29-Leviticus 11-15
Day 30-Leviticus 16-20
Day 31-Leviticus 21-25
Day 32-Lev. 26-27; Numbers 1-3
Day 33-Numbers 4-8

Read a little every day!



Mark Your Calendar

2/10, Howard's birthday
2/14, Doug & Lori's birthdays in Christ ('93)
2/18, Chris' birthday
2/20, Jody's birthday in Christ ('09)
2/24, Madison's birthday
4/29, 3-6 p.m. Spring Sing (here)
5/5, Men's Day: Open Bible Study in Burlington

The Oasis Project

The Oasis Project will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30-5:30 p.m. For confidentiality reasons, if you are not vetted, please stay away from the church building during those hours.

Today: 1/28

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Steven
Song Leader: John
#470 "Victory in Jesus"
#417 "Were He Leads Me I'll Follow"
#725 "Let Us Break Bread Together"
Talk/bread prayer: Jim L
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Chris
Pass/collection prayer: Howard
#768 "Jesus, Let Us Come to Know You"
Scripture Reading: Alfred - Luke 4:16-21
Lesson: Doug "Fulfilled in Your Hearing"
#947 "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling"
Closing Song: Tyler
#587 "Sing and Be Happy"
Closing Prayer: Carl
Subs: GH, JB

Next Sunday: 2/4

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Jim L
Song Leader: Alfred
Talk/bread prayer: Jim B
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Steven
Pass/collection prayer: Tyler
Scripture Reading: Garth - Hebrews 4:12-13
Lesson: Doug "Living and Active"
Closing Song: Tyler
Closing Prayer: Carl

Wash & Wear

- the cleaning sign-up for this season is on the fridge. Taking a turn is appreciated & needed.
- the church's blue polo shirts in a variety of sizes are \$15 each (to cover cost only).

Week of January 21

Bible Class	29
Morning Worship	32
Wed. Bible Class	6
Contribution	\$636.06
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$575.00