

The Disciple

AUGUST 2, 2020

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New Sermon Series

James:

Becoming a Child of the King

Starting on July 14th, Pastor Klug began a new sermon series based in the Book of James. Titled Becoming a Child of the King, it focuses on the teachings of James. He, according to Biblical lore, is a child of Mary, Jesus' mother. This would place James in history as Jesus' half-brother.

James introduces himself to us

as a servant, writing to the "scattered tribes" of Israel. He is writing for an audience who is suffering. And although individual suffering can be subjective, it is also relatable across experiences. James places himself as a guide for the ones who have been through trials; physical trials, emotional trials, and spiritual trials. Tribulations that will break a heart, a mind, a spirit.

In other words, James is speaking to everyone.

The first chapter of James starts by imploring us to consider "troubles of any kind" as "an opportunity for great joy." These troubles will give you a chance to grow. This opens the idea that we need to become broken, as Christ was broken for us. As with any field, the ground must be tilled before laying down seed. But the act of tilling is an act of breaking apart.

When we are broken, we must persevere. In those moments, we can choose to be bitter or to be better. James states that God will bless those who persevere and endure. A full and productive life will be awarded when a choice is made to embrace the trial, to



You show me
the path in
life, in your
presence
there is
fullness of
joy.

Psalms 16:11

give God precedence over tribulations, and nurture the seeds God is planting. We are meant to be fruitful and productive.

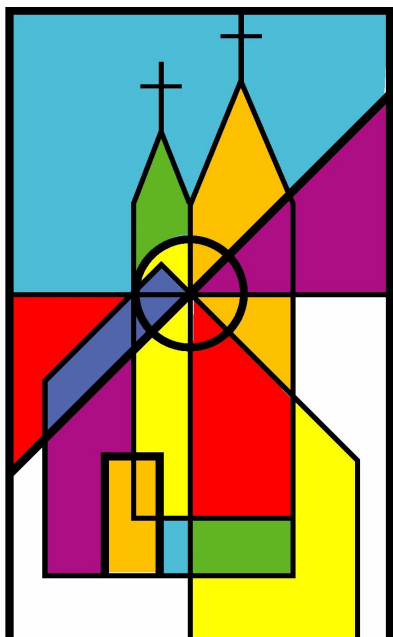
To be a Christian does not exempt you from unrest and misery. But it does give you an option for grace and tolerance. James reminds us that disorder comes from trying to live in two realms. You cannot divide yourself between God and the world.

Yet this is a fundamental human conflict. From the time of Genesis, the world has asked us to question the heart of God. The world is the snake in the garden, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”. The world tells us that we must have control at all costs. We don’t wish to lose control to anyone, not even to God.

But God is sending us an invitation. He is asking us to reach for maturity. God is issuing a request. But to accept that invitation, we must acknowledge our own shortfalls. We must recognize that temptations are of our own making. We must understand our own sinful nature. It is said that when faced with temptation, that temptation finds an ally on the inside of ourselves. To mature as faithful followers, James asks us to identify these shortcomings, call them out, and bring them into the light. Acknowledge our faults but do not live within the confines of those faults.

James says that when we can mature in God’s grace, we are his “prized possession.” We can then take our place and do the work God has set out for us.

Are you ready to hear the rest? Join us in person or online to listen to the remainder of this series throughout August and September.



Ready to return to Sunday Morning Service?

Before you return for the
first Sunday,
please call or text
540-748-0274
to let us know to expect you.

Do you want hear sermons and Sunday Services in the entirety?

Remember, the LCC website has all the sermon resources available for you to re-visit at your convenience.

Look for the “Worship Resources” right on the home page of LouisaChristianChurch.org.

You can sort these by month or just click into the resources available.

We hope you enjoy this feature and return often.

YOUR TITHES

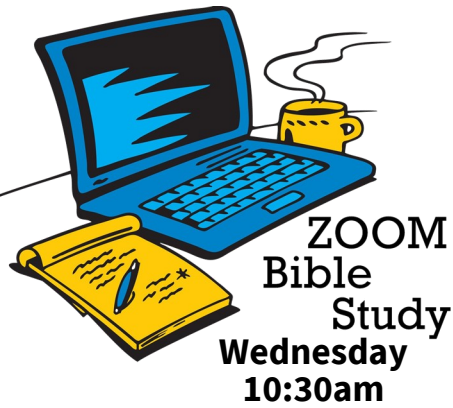
AND

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ZOOM
Bible
Study
Wednesday
10:30am

Thursday
7:00pm

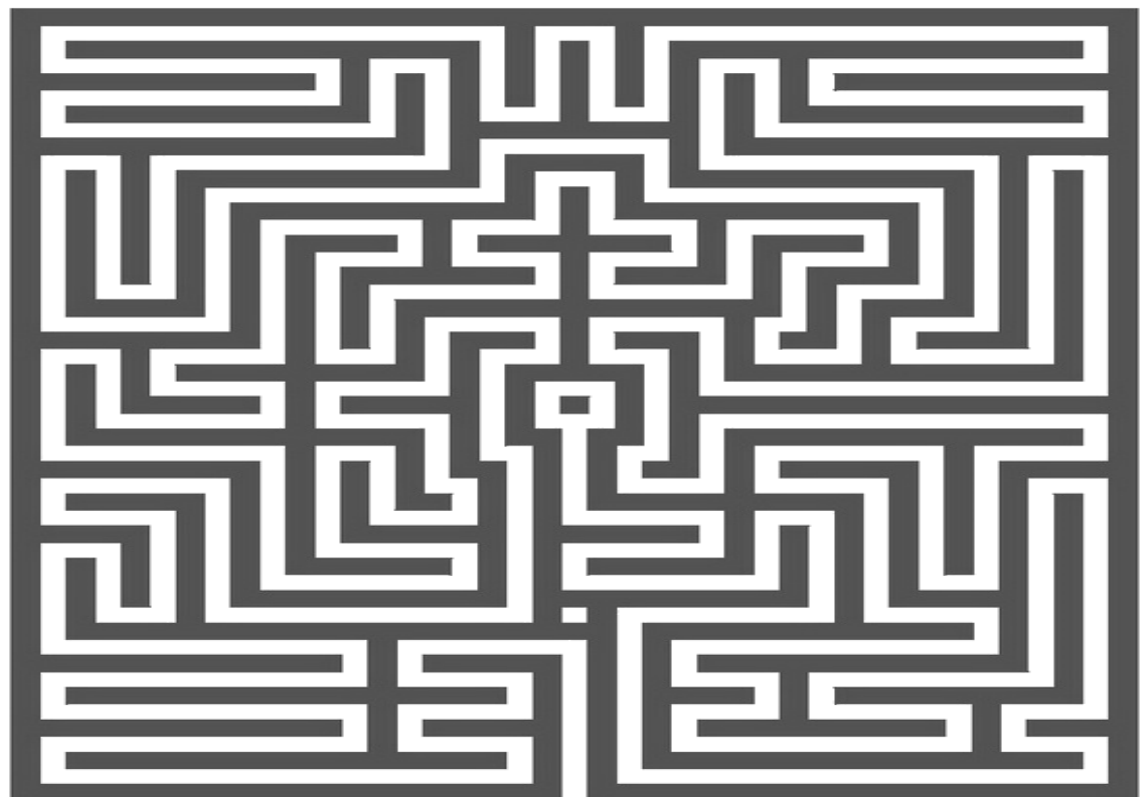
Contact Pastor Vincent to
get the Zoom information



Prayer Labyrinth

A prayer labyrinth is a labyrinth used to facilitate prayer, meditation, spiritual transformation, and/or global unity.

One way to use this labyrinth: Using your finger trace the pathway, worship and praise God as you walk to the center, then intercede for people and concerns as you walk back to the outside.



As we continue to have times of uncertainty, it may become important to carve out some time for you and/or your family to “Be Still”. Below is a short and easy way to start a small time of stillness. Taken from Self Care at Home by the Salt project.

be still and know:
simple and prayerful meditation
practices for the family

Try guiding a short family meditation. Here are a couple of practices that might do the trick:

returning to the breath

Start by having everyone close their eyes, breathe deeply, and focus on their breath. Guide their intention through saying this mantra three times before a 5-minute period of silent deep breathing, “All sounds return to the breath, all thoughts return to the breath, all distractions return to the breath.”

be still and know that i am god

In this meditation, sit around in a circle and have everyone recite Psalm 46 as a group mantra: “Be still and know that I am God.” But each time you recite the mantra, peel off one part as follows:

Be still and know that I am God.

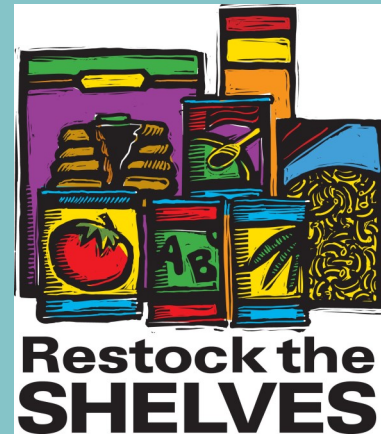
Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Repeat this together as much as you’d like. Soon, you’ll notice an incredible cadence that you’re entering into together.



The refrigerator and freezer has been very busy these last few months. A couple of people deliver several meals each week.

If you would like to cook a meal to help restock the freezer for those in need, please **contact Penny Best at 540-748-9048.**

She will be happy to coordinate a time to meet you at the church or to arrange a way to get your meal to the church.

As needs arise, we use these meals to help support people who have a need for the blessing of a pre-cooked meal.