

Please enjoy photos embedded from Pastor Janet's 2008 Lenten pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

"EMAIL" WORSHIP for March 29, 2020

Read the **Call to Worship** from **Psalm 11:3-4: When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do? The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them.**

Sing the **Opening Hymn: Rock of Ages.**

If able, click on the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM7gt_cSxjw

Call to Confession: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1John 1:8-9. *(Pause now for a time of silent confession.)*

Proclaim aloud, this **Assurance of Forgiveness:** "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:1.

*If able, click on the link below to sing aloud **the Gloria Patri:***

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU

State aloud, our **Call to God's Word:**

"Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?" John 10:35 & Romans 4:3.

Pray aloud, our **Prayer for Illumination:** Lord, give us eyes to read, ears to hear, and a mind, heart, body, and will to heed your will, according Scripture. Amen.

If able, click on the link below in your web browser to respond with

"How Firm a Foundation"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-x-U3VMYf4g>

SERMON: "Built on the Rock" by *The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford*

Next week, on Palm Sunday when we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem for his final Passover before returning to the Father, we read about the gates of New Jerusalem. This week's passages refer to foundations, such as those that hold up the walls of New Jerusalem. Read aloud **Revelation 21:14: "The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the name of the twelve apostles of the lamb."**

Our Gospel reading is the conclusion and exhortation by Jesus for us to stay in keeping with the foundations laid by him in the Sermon on the Mount, a poignant reminder in this time of difficulties, like the COV-19 pandemic and last week's floods in Pataskala. Open your Bible now to **Matthew 7:21-29.**

Or click on the following link:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7%3A21-29&version=NIV>

So, who is the wise man who built his house upon the rock?

One wise man was Abraham. Read about Abraham at the rock of Mount Moriah. Open your Bible to **Genesis 22:1-14**.

Or, if able, click on the link below

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+22%3A1-14&version=NIV>

Then click on the link below to audibly hear the Scripture above.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/mclean/niv/Gen.22.1-Gen.22.14>

Another wise man is the proverbial wise man, King Solomon. Read aloud **2Chronicles 3:1**:
“Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord has appeared to his father David.”

Solomon built the house of the Lord, the temple, on the same spot, where Abraham went to sacrifice his son Isaac, on the altar, the rock, the foundation of the lamb that God provided. So, Mount Moriah, which some believe is Mount Zion, is important to Jewish believers. This is why, although Solomon’s temple was later destroyed by the Babylonians and the 2nd temple built by Herod was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD, Jewish believers still gather at the only accessible wall at the stone foundation of the temple to pray, which is at the western wall.



But on Mount Moriah, there is now also the Dome of the Rock. Muslims believe, too, that the rock on Mount Moriah, covered by the dome, is where Abraham went to sacrifice his son. But according to the Koran, Abraham went to sacrifice not Isaac, but Ishmael. Muslims believe Ishmael, according to law, to be the rightful heir of Abraham. Although the firstborn is traditionally heir, Islamic teaching is contrary to Scripture. Also, according to Muslim tradition, Mount Moriah is where around 621AD the Prophet Mohammed was allegedly transported from Mecca to make his “Night Journey” to the throne of God. After Jerusalem was conquered in 637, Islamic leaders built the Dome of the Rock and the Mosque on what was once the Jewish temple mount. To the Muslim people, Mohammed, The Prophet of Islam, is the wise

man. Thus, Mount Moriah is also a foundational place of faith to believers of Islam. But Islam came well after that of Scripture, both the Old and New Testament. Chronologically in history, the Islamic faith came well after the coming of Jesus, the Christ. Muslims do believe that Jesus is one of many prophets, but a lesser prophet than Mohammed. However, false teachings that contradict sacred Scripture, according to Christ in the sermon on the mount, reveal false prophets.

True, there is not just one wise man. From Jesus in Matthew 7:26 we learn that everyone who hears Jesus' words and puts them into practice is wise. In contrast, those who do not put Jesus' words into practice are like a foolish man who built his house on sand. Given this, those who do not accept Jesus as Messiah, are not wise. One is not wise by one's own definition. Further, though there are prophets who are not followers of Jesus, they are unwise and false, by Jesus's own definition. Whereas, followers of Jesus, both Messianic Jews and Gentiles, who put Jesus' words into practice, are wise.

Open your Bible to read, where Paul supports the words of Jesus in **1Corinthians 3:10-17**.

Or, if able, click on the link below.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+3%3A10-17&version=NIV>

So, Paul, like any of us who build on the sound foundation of Christ, is wise. Yet the focus is not on the builder. Emphasis is on the foundation. If an "okay" builder (*adjective of a recent marketing ad*) builds on a bad foundation, the house will fall.

The focal point is the foundation, who is Jesus Christ and his word. The one who builds on the foundation of Christ and heeds his word is wise! The one who builds on the foundation of

Christ is the one who is saved, the one who survives, and the one who does not suffer loss. So, if we are seeking the foundation that will not fail, the foundation that keeps us secure and holds us up, the only secure foundation is Christ and Christ alone. All other ground is sinking sand. Faith in anything else fails. The faith of Abraham and the wisdom of Solomon without Christ fails.

The entirety of the Old Testament points the way to Christ, but without Christ it fails. Faith in other human being fails, which is what Paul combats in 1Corinthians. Faith in Abraham, Solomon, Mohammed, Paul, or anyone, except for Christ, fails. Faith in any other wisdom fails. Faith in philosophy, science, or any false religion fails. Only faith in Christ stands. All other ground is sinking sand, like some Pataskala yards after flooding. Only on Christ, the solid rock, can we stand. Respond in pause or in song.

If able, click on the link below to sing "The Solid Rock"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWdNgXSd46Y>

Please Remember to Give in Continued Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Messiah

Giving remains important for the church to continue to carry out ministry, pay bills, and have funds for payroll for the permanent church staff, who will continue to be paid to meet their living needs. Giving through automatic payments

made through your bank are especially helpful. Contributions may also be mailed weekly or monthly. There is also the ability to give online through the church website. Please continue your faithful giving and consider even a small increase, if able. FYI on 3/15/2020, I, Pastor Janet, pledged to increase giving by \$20 more per month. For more information, please read the stewardship message entitled, "Do Not Worry about Tomorrow" offered on the church website.

Pray now as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Close now this worship service **with hymns of praise.**

If able, click on the links below to sing the medley

"The Church's One Foundation" & "Standing on the Promises"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq1r9mQEZPA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yc6iH-HW-A>

Benediction: Therefore, my beloved ones, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. Amen. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Dear Beloved Ones, some of you have mentioned that you miss seeing me. This virtual hug is outside my apartment 215, which reminds us of a good verse for now. Enjoy the

"He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5

hug! I miss you, too. Love in Christ, Pastor Janet

