

Sermon Notes

Sunday, March 14, 2010
First United Methodist Church of Pine Mountain

"The Psalms Speak for the Soul"
Part 3 of 4

*"God, Why Are You so Far
Away from Me?"*

1. Sometimes We Feel Like God is

_____ .

2. When We _____ to God, God

Comes _____ in Us and Gives Us

What We _____ .

*Seven Things We Can Do To Experience
God's Deliverance (vs. 22-26)*

- 1) Witness About God 2) Praise God
- 3) Honor God 4) Revere God
- 5) Know that God is Close and Listens
- 6) Resolve to be Faithful
- 7) Know that God Will Sustain Your Life

*"They who seek the Lord
will praise him!" -Psalm 22:26*



... are given today
by the First United Methodist Church
Altar Guild
for the Glory of God
and in loving memory of
Jewell Cleaveland

This Week at First United Methodist

A=Annex, CR=Choir Room, S=Sanctuary, FLC=Family Life Center,
CEC=Christian Education Center

Sunday	March 14
8:30am	- Worship Service
9:30am	- Coffee/Light Breakfast Fellowship
9:45am	- Sunday School
11:00am	- Worship Service
4:30pm	- 3H Club (FLC)
4:30pm	- Youth Choir (A)
5:30pm	- UMYF
6:00pm	- Finance Committee (CEC)
7:00pm	- Church Council (CEC)
Monday	March 15
9:30am	- Prayer Team (FLC)
Tuesday	March 16
6:00pm	- Worship Committee (A)
Wednesday	March 17
5:45pm	- Wednesday Night Supper (FLC)
6:00pm	- Youth Choir
6:15pm	- Kingdom Seekers
6:30pm	- Youth (FLC)
6:30pm	- Chancel Choir
6:30pm	- Steward Bible Study (CEC)
6:45pm	- Children's Choir (FLC)
Thursday	March 18
5:00pm	- Newsletter Deadline
Saturday	March 20
8:00am	- Church Wide Work Day

Youth: Youth will meet at the church at 4:00pm on Friday, March 19, to travel to Camp Glisson. They will return at 4:00pm on Sunday, March 21. There will be no UMYF on March 21.

Wednesday Night Supper and Fellowship
Corned Beef & Cabbage ~ Vegetable ~ Salad
Bread ~ Beverage ~ Dessert

Next Week's Servants

	8:30	11:00
Ushers/Greeters	Jon Bentley, Carolyn Bentley Jane Logan, June Saint	Max Parker, Winky Parker Michael Willey, Tracy Willey
Children's Church	Carolyn Bentley	Tracy Willey
Acolyte	Grant Flynn	Griffin Reddick
Nursery Helper	Jeri Bishop	Mary Ellen Roberts
Altar Guild		Sally Clay Smith, Sue Trott



Pressing on in Faith When God is Silent

In this Lenten Season, we are turning to the Psalms, a collection of poems, prayers, and hymns of ancient Israel, and seeing how they speak to the soul and for the soul in our communications with Almighty God. Today's text, Psalm 22, laments the silence of God and then later provides a spiritual program that helps us overcome the feeling and move forward in our lives with faith and victory.

The Psalmist cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" What spiritual seeker has *not* felt abandoned by God? Who has *not* felt that God is *not* near but far, far away?

Jesus felt the silence and distance of His Heavenly Father on the cross. He knew the Psalms very well. Some believe He would have quoted the whole of Psalm 22 on the cross. No one knows for sure, but He did quote at least the first verse from the Psalmist on the cross. That was recorded.

The Apostle Paul must have felt the silence of God. For years, perhaps the majority of his adult life, he asked God to take away a particular physical ailment, he called it a "thorn in the flesh," but apparently God was silent on that request. Fortunately, the silence of God on that important issue in his life did not deter him from the faith and his gospel ministry.

You and I also experience the silence of God. It's a spiritual experience that is as true and real today as it was 2,000 years ago and everybody feels it. Psalm 22 is a voice, to and for our souls, which we must hear and heed in our spiritual lives.

Mark Jarman is the Centennial Professor of English at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. His father and grandfather were preachers. He's written many books of poems and anthologies of writings. One, called "Five Psalms," is found in his book To the Green Man. He speaks to the reality, sometimes the heavy reality, of the silence of God in our spiritual lives.

Dr. Jarman writes, "I like it when God says 'Yes'. I can cope with it when God says 'No'. But when God says nothing, I am never quite prepared for how that affects me. Sitting in the void I ask hard questions. Did I do something to cause this silence? Was it something I failed to do? Am I supposed to keep throwing my words into the chill of the chasm between He and I?"

Here is his poem, "Forgive the Silence:"

*First forgive the silence that answers prayer,
Then forgive the prayer that stains the silence
Excuse the absence that feels like presence,
Then excuse the feeling that insists on presence
Pardon the delay of revelation,
Then ask pardon for revealing your impatience
Forgive God for being only a word
Then ask God to forgive the betrayal of language.*

If we listen to and follow the system of thought and faith the Psalmist provides for us in Psalm 22, we can overcome anything in life, including the desperate times when we feel that God is silent.

Your Pastor and Friend, Mark

*Dr. Mark Outlaw, Pastor
John Manseau, Minister of Music
Mary Ellen Roberts, Church Secretary
Shannon Emerson, Minister of Children
Roger Bryant, Minister of Youth
Karen Williams, Noah's Ark Director
Mike Duncan, Minister of Facilities
Willie George Shepherd, Custodian
Susan Williams, Nursery Attendant*

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Church Office Hours:
Mon - Fri. 9:00-1:00pm*



The First United Methodist Church of

Pine Mountain

The Prelude Mr. John Manseau

The Procession of the Acolyte

†The Opening Hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" UMH 57

†The Congregational Response

Leader: On these days of Lenten journey,

People: Christ goes with us side by side.

Leader: While we gather here for worship,

People: May our lives be focused with praise and care.

Leader: In this Lenten season, let us learn new ways of living.

People: May we fast from words that pollute and feast on words that are kind.

Leader: Let us fast from judging others and feast on building others up in love.

People: Let us fast from despair and feast on an attitude of gratitude.

Leader: Let us fast from hatred and jealousy and feast on kindness and compassion.

People: Let us fast from thoughts of illness and feast on the healing power of God.

ALL: May we fast from worry and feast on the hopes and dreams of God!

†The Moment of Fellowship

(At this time, take a moment to greet someone sitting near you in Christ! Members and visitors, please sign an Attendance Pad and pass it along your pew. If you are a first-time visitor, please fill out one of the yellow slips in the pad. If our pastor or church can serve you in any way, please let us know.)

The Time of Prayers, Praises and The Lord's Prayer

The Offertory

†The Doxology UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

The Children's Message Ms. Shannon Emerson
(Children age 3-1st grade are now dismissed for Children's Church)

The Anthem "My Savior & My God"

†The Hymn of Preparation "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" (1,4) UMH 402

The Spotlight on the American Cancer Society

The Scripture Psalm 22:1-8, 15-26

The Sermon "God, Why Are You so Far Away from Me?"

[The Third in a Lenten Series Titled, "The Psalms Speak for the Soul"]

†The Closing Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" UMH 474

†The Benediction

†The Congregational Response

"The Family Prayer Song"

Verse 1: Come and fill our homes with your presence; you alone are worthy of our reverence.

Chorus: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. We will serve the Lord.

Verse 2: Lord we vow to live holy, bowing our knees to you only.

Chorus:

†The Postlude

†Please Stand As You Are Able UMH United Methodist Hymnal

Welcome American Cancer Society Speaker We extend a special, warm welcome this morning to our guest speaker who will be sharing with us about the work of the American Cancer Society.

Work Day: Trustees are planning a church wide work day this Saturday, March 20. This is our time of year to get our church & grounds ready for Easter. More hands not only make spring cleaning much easier on everyone but it offers more time of fellowship. Please come join us! If you can help please bring Windex and a roll of paper towels.

Easter Egg Hunt, April 3, 12:00-2:00pm: Come out and join us for a day of fun and fellowship. Hot dogs are being provided and each family is asked to bring side dishes to share. We are in need of individually wrapped candy to be donated for the egg hunt. Please drop off all candy in the designated buckets around the church. Thank you for your support!

Register Now for the Fall 2010 / Noah's Ark: You can pick up registration forms from Mary Ellen or from Karen's box outside her office. Call Karen at 663-9521 if you have any questions. Classes will fill up fast.

Children's Day 2010- April 17 9:15-1:30 Lagrange 1st UMC The children will be attending the program KIDS LET DOWN YOUR NETS. It will be a day filled with worship, skits, fun and games. Admission is \$5.00 per child/adult and will include lunch. If you are interested in attending please see Shannon by April 1st.

Children's Department: The children are in need of new outdoor/game equipment. If you are able to donate any of the following items it would be greatly appreciated! [kick balls, 10 blindfolds, jump rope, cones, bean bags, etc.]

Easter Egg Candy Needed: We are in need of individually wrapped candy for the eggs. Please put all donations in the designated blue buckets around the church. Thank you!

Pennies Please! The children will begin collecting pennies for Samaritan's Purse on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. All donations will go towards missions and those in need. We appreciate all of your support!

This Week's Servants

8:30

11:00

Ushers/Greeters

Terry Cobb, Sally Cobb

Nikki Clepper, Anne Lanham

Roy Westbrook, Judy Westbrook

Chelsea Edgar, Betty Parrish

Children's Church

Sally Cobb

Chelsey Edgar

Acolyte

Lace Cobb

Kersten Smith

Nursery Helper

Sally Clay Smith

Stacy Haralson

Altar Guild

Sally Clay Smith, Sue Trott



Louise Burlton
Pat Brooks
Terry Chandler
Bill Darley
Marion Edwards
Allen Hagler
Nelson Jones
Amy Mabry
Dathan Mabry
Emma Mabry

Alice Money
Martha Morgan
Mike Morgan
Alf Mullins
Janet Mullins
Lexie Paulk
Nick Peterson
Dimple Strother
Don Taylor
Fran White
Janet Williamson
Our Church
Our Country &
All Nations
The Men & Women of
our U. S. Military

The Rose on the Altar today is in celebration of a new daughter to Amy & Dean Mabry
Isabella Lyric Mabry
Born March 6, 2010

Memorial Service for Jewell Cleaveland Today at 2PM Visitation with the family will be held afterwards in the Family Life Center.

Calling all handbell ringers! Easter is fast approaching. We need your help, former ringers, as well as, any who are interested in, or curious about bell ringing. We especially need some men to ring the larger bells. We will be rehearsing 10:00-10:30am all Sundays in March. Excuse yourself briefly from Sunday School and come ring with us for Easter.

Mission Trip - Mission trip will be to Upper Sand Mt. Parish in Sylvania, Alabama for 3 days. Leaving June 6 in the afternoon and returning June 9. If you want to go please contact Malinda Brooks by April 12. Call or see her for details.

Financial Information

General Budget to date:

Budgeted: \$77,970.00
Received: \$66,588.35
Attendance last week: 138

Exercising the Faith

In order to reach our Vision 2020 Goal to be debt free by 2020 we need to average \$48,000 per year above and beyond our General Budget. [Campaign year from May 2009 to May 2010]
Received to date: \$78,091.81