



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 44 November 8, 2022

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

OFFICE PHONE
(863) 682-4702

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD
Casey & Emily Paulin

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill Russia
Don Iverson India
Marc Veary Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald Scotland
J. Paguaga Honduras
Joey Treat Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

PERMANENTLY

Christian

NOVEMBER 13TH - 16TH

SOUTH FLORIDA AVE. CHURCH OF CHRIST

FALL 2022 GOSPEL MEETING

1807 S. FLORIDA AVENUE
LAKELAND, FL 33803



JEFF JENKINS

Jeff has been preaching since 1973. He holds degrees from Faulkner University (AA - 1979), Freed-Hardeman University (BA - 1981), and has done post-graduate work at both Southern Christian University and Emory University. He is also a co-founder of The Jenkins Institute.

please join us

Bible Study - "The Christian's Position"

A.M. Worship - "God's Plan"

Fellowship meal following A.M. worship

P.M. Worship - "The Christian's Practice"

Monday - "The Christian's Perspective"

Tuesday - "The Christian's Place"

Wednesday - "The Christian's Power"

Sunday: 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, & 6:00 PM

Monday- Wednesday: 7:00 PM

PRAISES TO THE SOVEREIGN GOD!

Brian Kenyon

Unlike anyone in the sacred text, the apostle John, while exiled on the island of Patmos, accepted the invitation to enter through an opened door into heaven to see the very throne of God and the One who sat upon it (Rev. 4:1-2). John described an amazing scene, the full awesomeness of which could not be replicated even by the most advanced computer animation! John described “twenty-four elders” and “four living creatures” who were around and in the midst of this throne (Rev. 4:3-7). The objects, the colors, and the sounds to which John likened this scene was incredible and of themselves worthy of our study! However, this article will focus on the two outbursts of praise John described, which helped set the stage for the remainder of the message of Revelation and the encouragement that would follow. If this throne scene could help sustain John and the first century Christians of Asia Minor in their severe persecution, we also can be encouraged to endure whatever our struggles.

SOVEREIGN IN SEPARATION

The first praise came from the four living creatures: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” (Rev. 4:8). This three-fold description of God sets Him apart from everything else! First, “Holy, holy, holy” expresses the perfect, absolute holiness of God (cf. Isa. 6:3). God is set apart and exalted above all His creation. He is equally separate from all evil and sin (Isa. 59:1-2; Hab. 1:13; Jas. 1:13; 1 Jn. 1:5). Second, “Lord God Almighty” expresses the omnipotence, or “all-powerfulness,” of God (Rev. 19:15; 21:22 cf. 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6). God is able to do whatever He wills, so long as it does not violate His nature (Gen. 18:14; Job 42:2; Ps. 115:3; 135:6; Mt. 19:26). Obviously, there are some things God cannot do, not because He lacks power, but because they are against His perfect nature. For example, God cannot tolerate iniquity (Hab. 1:13), deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13), lie (Heb. 6:18), commit sin or solicit others to sin (Jas. 1:13), or do such contradictory things like making a spherical cube or a rock so big that He cannot move! Third, “Who was and is and is to come” expresses God as timeless (cf. Rev. 1:4, 8; 16:5). God is eternal, or as the psalmist said, “Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God” (Ps. 90:2).

SOVEREIGN IN CREATION

In response to this praise of the four living creatures, the twenty-four elders fell down, cast down their golden crowns, and worshiped God (Rev. 4:9-10), saying, “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created” (Rev. 4:11). These twenty-four elders, symbolizing God’s saints, acknowledged two truths about God that make Him worthy to receive “glory, honor, and power” (Rev. 4:11). First, God “created all things” (cf. Gen. 1–2; Jn. 1:3; Heb. 11:3). Beside Himself, there is nothing in the universe whose existence cannot ultimately be traced back to God’s creation (cf. Ex. 20:11). Second, God’s will not only brought all creation into existence, but also continues to sustain all creation (cf. Col. 1:16-17). While these truths may seem the same, there is a distinction. The first emphasizes the sheer power and divine nature of the Creator in bringing this world into existence from nothing (cf. Rom. 1:19-20). The second emphasizes the willful purpose the Creator had in making this universe. This world was created to provide mankind, God’s crowning creation (Gen. 1:26-27), a place to live and thrive (Isa. 45:18) and to point humanity to God’s existence (Acts 17:24-27).

SOVEREIGN IN THE SEALED

This present culture has desensitized many people to God. While some do not acknowledge His existence and/or awesome power, just a tiny blade of grass testifies to the unfathomable might residing in God! Revelation speaks of the “sealed” as those belonging to God (Rev. 7:1-3; 9:4 cf. 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30). As John described in Revelation 4, God is worthy of praise because of His distance from sin and His power in creation. If He can bring this world into existence, He can see His people, the “sealed of God,” through even the most severe trials (Rev. 2:10). Even if God’s people were to lose their lives “for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 2:13; 6:9; 12:11; 20:4), God would give them victory (Rev. 2:10, 17; 3:5; 7:9; 20:11-15). Are you sealed of God? Is the mighty God sovereign in your life? Have you been washed in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 1:5)? Evil opposition “will make war with the Lamb,” but “the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (Rev. 17:4)!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim Turner - health
 Brian Smith - heart health
 Debbie Bush - struggles
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Wayne Shearer - health
 Geny Johnson - health
 Sophia Smith- in Blake @ Bradenton
 George Davis- toe surgery

PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Annett Phillip - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Brenda Mask - health
 Bitsy Thomas - injury
 Neyome Brunson- trip to Sri Lanka
 Charles Paulin- health

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

Brothers, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:25



Our deepest sympathies are extended to Amanda Fanuef and the family of Alene Cook, who recently passed away. There will be a memorial for both Alene and her husband, Blaine, at Central church of Christ in Haines City on November 12th at 10:00 A.M.



We are in need of gas cards again for benevolence purposes. Please give the cards or money for cards to Rick Kenyon or drop them off at the office. Thank you!

The SFA church directory is now available on the **Instant Church Directory App**.

Privacy and safety is an absolute factor! To access the app, your email address **must** be registered with the office to verify identity. If the office does not have your email, access to the directory will be **denied**.

If you need assistance or more information about it, please see Rick Kenyon.



We need packs of 16.9 oz water bottles & volunteers

to help at the AFSP Walk out of Darkness being held on Sunday, Dec. 4th.

There is a sign up sheet for volunteers on the bulletin board. Bring the water to the office.

Please See Rick Kenyon for more details.



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, November 9th, 2022

AnnouncementsDavid Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer..... Terrance Dindy Jr.
 DevoVince Daugherty
 Closing PrayerKyle Bingle

Sunday, November 13th, 2022

10:30 A.M.

God's Plan... Jeff Jenkins
 Ephesians 3:9-12

6:00 P.M.

The Christian's Practice... Jeff Jenkins
 Ephesians 4-6

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before classAndre Medley
 AnnouncementsB. Sheumaker
 A.M. Song LeaderBrian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/PrayerBrian Williams
 Lord's TableGeorge Davis
 Closing PrayerJeff Bingle
 Open/Close bldg (both)B. Sheumaker
 GreetersE & C Smith
 Attendance cards (both)Adrian/Peyton

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song LeaderVince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/PrayerRick Kenyon
 Lord's TableGeorge Davis
 Closing PrayerJimmy Sweeney
 GreetersSweeney

Wednesday, November 16th, 2022

AnnouncementsDavid Anderson
 Song Leader/prayer Terrance Dindy Jr.
 DevoVince Daugherty
 Closing PrayerJosh Cantrell

Upcoming Events

November

10- Ladies' Scrapbook Night
 12- Eagle Lake Men's Lectureship
 11-13- WWCC Fall Family Camp
 13- Elders, Deacons, & Preachers' Meeting
 13- Fellowship Meal (team 3)
 13-16- Fall gospel meeting

November

18- Youth Thankful Meal
December
 4 -Walk Out of Darkness
 8 - Ladies' Scrapbook Night
 11 -Ladies' Cookie Swap
 16 - Youth Polar Express Night



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 23 \$4,248.00
 Oct 30 \$9,881.00
 Nov 6 \$7,298.00
 Contribution Average.....\$ 7,175.67
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

Today we will cast our votes to decide who will govern our communities for the next few years.

While this vote is an important one that we need to pray about and choose wisely, there is a much more important vote that we cast every day! Marshall Keeble once said

"God voted for you, Satan voted against you-- you get to cast the deciding vote!"

Every day we must choose to follow Jesus Christ! God voted for us the day he sent his son Jesus to the cross to die for our sins (John 3:16). But our adversary, the devil, walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour! (1 Peter 5:8) Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44) and will do his very best to deceive us, but the choice is totally up to you and me.

May we proclaim as Joshua did in Joshua 24:15,

"...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

VERSES ABOUT GOD'S WISDOM

"FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NOR ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS," SAYS THE LORD.

"FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS, AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS."

Isaiah 55:8-9

OH, THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES BOTH OF THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! HOW UNSEARCHABLE ARE HIS JUDGMENTS AND HIS WAYS PAST FINDING OUT!

Romans 11:33

BUT OF HIM YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO BECAME FOR US WISDOM FROM GOD--AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SANCTIFICATION AND REDEMPTION--...

1 Corinthians 1:30

BUT THE WISDOM THAT IS FROM ABOVE IS FIRST PURE, THEN PEACEABLE, GENTLE, WILLING TO YIELD, FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUITS, WITHOUT PARTIALITY AND WITHOUT HYPOCRISY.

James 3:17

JOY OVER SORROW

When we lose people that we love we usually feel sadness. When someone moves away, a friend changes schools, or a loved one has died we feel various forms of grief. Imagine what the friends of Jesus felt when He was crucified. The Man they had come to know as Savior, Messiah, the Christ had been buried in a tomb. However they forgot about His words which said, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." (Luke 24:7) They understood the first part, but Jesus was just assure of the resurrection part. On the first day of the week, Sunday, He rose from the dead. The last scene Luke gives is Jesus's ascension into heaven. As He went up, "they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy." (Luke 24:52) Though Jesus had left them, it was not like a normal loss. The disciples knew that He had ascended to Heaven to reign as King over His kingdom. The disciples were not sorrowful; they were filled with joy.

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www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

He who gets wisdom
loves his own soul;
He who keeps
understanding will
find good.

Proverbs 19:8



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.