

March 25, 2020

# 40 DAYS WITH JESUS

“Nicodemus”

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

*John 3:16*

The Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Buresh

The Service Participant: Gordon Strooboscher

Opening Dialogue inspired by Psalm 119

L: Our souls cling to you, O Lord

**C: Give us understanding, that we may follow your way**

L: Turn our hearts to your decrees

**C: Let your steadfast love come to us each**

L: Open our lives to reflect your word

**C: Let us faithfully live your law**

L: You are a lamp for my feet

**C: You are a light for our path**

L: Draw us to that light

**C: And help us refrain from turning away from you**

L: Great is your mercy

**C: And your word is truth**

L: Let my cry come before you

**C: Let me live that I may praise you**

+ The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

**God of love, we live in a world that is full and fast. Help us to live lives of discernment. Let us view the world through your eyes that we may see as you see. Inspire us that we may not be tempted by things which are ultimately distractions. But instead help us to faithfully follow your call to love that we and the world may live into your high calling. Amen.**

The Reading . . . . . John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him,

“How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you<sup>[g]</sup> do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Dramatic Monologue: *Nicodemus*

The Offering

*We invite you to continue in your faithful support of God’s work by contributing electronically during our season of meeting in a virtual world. Please see our website homepage for further instructions on how to participate in electronic giving.*

+ The Prayers

*We begin with a time of silent prayer. Take this time to lift up the prayers of your heart to God while surrounded by the community of saints. The silence will be ended by the leader concluding with a spoken prayer.*

Prayer spoken by Pastor:

Loving God, where you are, we find love. Distractions in our world that draw us away from love are abundant. Pain and anger and hatred and sorrow and live can monopolize our attention. But you have given us the calling to love. Guide us to reflect on the love you have shown us through Jesus Christ. May the love shown us strengthen us to let love define our relationships with others. Let your love penetrate not only our lives, but the lives of all, that our world may reflect more fully that which you desire. One where the call to love you and love one another comes to fruition. Amen.

+ The Lord's Prayer

+ The Benediction and Sending

L: The greatness of God is on display as God's people are faithful

**C: Let us glorify God**

L: The promises of Christ go with us now and always

**L: Let our lives humbly reflect God's glory. Amen.**

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In this unprecedented time, Good Shepherd will continue to seek best how to faithfully live the gospel message. For updates, please consider the following options.

- Visit the website: [good-shepherd-church.com](http://good-shepherd-church.com) . We will be working to keep this updated with current information.
- Get on the church email list. To do so, go to the website and click on the tab labeled, "Contact Us". Complete the information required and in the text let us know you want to be added to the email list.
- Follow our official Facebook page. Search for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and make sure to find the one in Palos Heights. We have a picture of the church building on our page to make it easily identifiable.
- Go to our YouTube page where we have uploaded the entire video for worship. In the description of the video you will find a link that will connect directly to the bulletin. And don't forget to subscribe to the YouTube channel so you will not miss any further video postings.

*May this season of Lent and anxiety be a journey we take together with diligence, compassion, hope and love.*