

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

May 5, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 17

Letting Our Life Reflect
God Each Day

ON WATCH

St. Ambrose was the Archbishop of Milan during the fourth century. He was one of the most influential figures in the early church, and tradition holds that after St. Augustine converted to Christianity, Ambrose baptized him.

Ambrose presented significant arguments against a heresy of the early church called Arianism. The Arians were a non-Trinitarian sect who believed that Jesus Christ is subordinate to God. This belief holds that Jesus did not always exist but was begotten at some point in time by God the Father. Ambrose used the Nicene Creed to frame Arian theology as outside of orthodoxy.

For us today, we can learn from parents of the church like Ambrose. In his book *Exposition of the Christian Faith*, he writes, "Faith is profitable, therefore, when her brow is bright with a fair crown of good works." He cites James 2:14-26 to support this point. In other words, our lives should reflect who we follow. For Ambrose, we follow Jesus, part of the triune God. He goes on:

If the Son had His origin in nothing, He is not Son; if He is a creature, He is not the Creator; if He was made, He did not make all things; if He needs to learn, He has no foreknowledge; if He is a receiver, He is not perfect; if He progress, He is not God. If He is unlike the Father He is not the Father's image; if He is Son by grace, He is not such by nature; if He have no part in the Godhead, He has it in Him to sin. (*Exposition of the Christian Faith*, Book 2, Section 14)

The preceding paragraph summarizes who Jesus is. God did not make Jesus. Jesus is a co-eternal part of the Holy Trinity. Having Ambrose's articulation of Jesus' role in the God-head is

**SERVICE OF HOLY
WORSHIP**

May 10, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Show Us"
Rev. Will Brown

Scripture:
John 14:1-14

Anthem:
"Lord, Here Am I"
(Beck)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, May 6

10:00 PBJ Bible Study (*Zoom*)
6:30 Sanctuary Choir (*Zoom*)

SUNDAY, May 10

9:45 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
(*radio and livestream*)
6:00 Youth Real Life (*Zoom*)

Other events and activities are being canceled or modified to be online-only when possible. Please contact your group leader or the Church Office with any questions.

helpful as we (a) try to understand why we follow him, and (b) prepare for Trinity Sunday (June 7, 2020).

The foundation of our faith is belief in Jesus Christ. Beyond belief, we must wrestle with how we live. Or, to put it another way, we must decide what we do with this knowledge of life in Christ. If Jesus is a subordinate part of God, who at some point became one with God, then how does he have the power to bring us into eternal union with God?

Some people might wonder why we need to explain the nature of Jesus as part of the Trinity. That's okay. We don't all need to ask the same questions. Others might find theological engagement with the nature of God less applicable to the events of any given day. That's okay. Some might disagree and find the Arian argument appealing. To those, let's keep talking.

Part of life in Christ is faith seeking understanding. This was the life motto of another early church parent St. Anselm. He wrote it in Latin, *fides quaerens intellectum*. Exploring the nature of the Trinity and applying it to life falls under this idea of *fides quaerens intellectum*, or faith seeking understanding.

Ambrose's idea of the head of faith being "bright with a fair crown of good works" applies to us today. We have the chance to build on that crown every day. We can live in a way that points to God. We can make choices based on the Gospel accounts of how Jesus lived. We can add to the crown without forgetting that it is a crown of faith, and it is based in belief in Christ.

Let your life speak of your faith in God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Peace,
Matt

Prayer Concerns

Pray for our world, as we all face the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pray for those infected with the virus, for people who are taking care of them, and for all who are especially at risk.

Pray for our church family, that we may draw closer, even as we keep a physical distance from one another.

Worship Leadership

Would you like to help lead in worship? Each week we are looking for people to read a Scripture lesson or lead in other ways. Typically, this means taking a short video of yourself--the camera on your phone is perfect for this. Talk to Alba if you're interested!

Sunday Mornings Online

Even though we are not gathering in person, we are still joining together each Sunday morning for worship and Bible study. We hope you will join us!

Bible Study

At 9:45 am, we begin an interactive Bible Study that is broadcast via [YouTube](#). We invite you to join in the conversation by adding comments during the session. To download the handout ahead of time, visit universitybaptist.org/live

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin, as usual, at 11:00 am. We encourage everyone in the congregation to join us from home. As always, you can listen by radio on WINA (1070 AM and

98.9 FM), or you can join us online for our live broadcast. To view the live video broadcast, visit our [Facebook page](#) or click [this link](#) to watch on YouTube.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Join us in wishing some of our church family a Happy Birthday this week!

March 4th: Bobby Gregg
March 5th: Nancy Gaines, Kelly Kossi
March 8th: Richard Vaughan
March 9th: Sue Whitt
March 10th: Bill Cromwell
March 11th: Michael Cheuk



May God bless you all with abundant joy on your birthday and always.

An Update from our Friends at PACEM

From the city-wide leadership at PACEM:

"We are in week 7 of responding to the pandemic and shelter looks really different than even two weeks ago. At the beginning of last week, a hotel option suddenly became available (funded by the county and staffed by UVA) as a preemptive measure to those in our shelters with advanced age or certain health conditions. As a result, we were able to move more than a dozen of our guys and all of our women (7 total) over to La Quinta by the end of last week. As a result, we were down to 15 guys last night at Key Rec. That said, the work has not stopped. We are at full speed with our case management as we try and get our guests into housing.

At Key Rec, we are still feeding our folks every night. If anyone is interested in providing food for 20-25 men one night please let me know. Right now, Fridays and Saturdays are the nights that are generally open.

Also, we sent out an online fundraising appeal last week that has a lot more detail about the current state of PACEM: [here](#). Please take a look and if you would forward to your volunteers as well as friends and family it would definitely be appreciated. Thank you for all your help!"

Thank You!

During this ongoing pandemic, we have been providing 13 additional parking spaces to UVA Health System employees, to reduce their need to use public transportation with its inherent risk of spreading infection. We recently received this thank you from our contact person:

"Thank you again for your help! I've been amazed at how appreciative everyone has been. Even yesterday, after reaching out to those parking at your location, I received a long text from one of our staff describing how it's been a godsend and what a difference it's made. I don't think I'll ever be able to put all the stories and the gratitude expressed to me in these past few weeks into words that communicate the full breadth of what we accomplished. But it is so greatly appreciated!"

Soles 4 Souls

Our Soles 4 Souls box is still here! Please bring any clothing and shoes you would like to donate. Donations assist in disrupting poverty worldwide. Help us serve those on need, create opportunities and protect the environment! The box is emptied about once per month. To learn more, click [here](#) or visit <https://www.soles4souls.org/>



Masks for Southwood

Ever since the CDC recommended fabric face masks be worn in public, members of our congregation have been busily sewing and giving away dozens and dozens of masks. (If anyone in the congregation does not have a mask yet or knows someone who needs one, please contact the church office so we can send them to you.) Thank you to all the people who have been hard at work sewing and sharing masks!

At the suggestion of one of our deacons, we reached out to a contact at Southwood, a large local mobile home community, to see if residents there needed masks. As our contact talked to families, she found that while a few of them already had masks, but many did not. Word began to spread between neighbors, and requests kept coming in. Our contact explained, "These families just don't have connections to know where to find these things and are so grateful."

We distributed over 50 masks to the people at Southwood, including some child-sized masks. Residents were effusive in their thanks. Said one in a text message, "Wow! Besides serving to protect us and protect other people, they ARE BEAUTIFUL !!" Another recipient said, "Muchas gracias alas señoras por ayudarnos a cuidar nuestras familias Dios les bendiga," which translates, "Thank you very much to the ladies for helping us to take of our families. God bless you."



Sharing these masks is one way we are able, as individuals and as a church, to share God's love with our neighbors. As this pandemic continues, please be on the lookout for ways we can be the Church to those in our community. If you become aware of people needing masks or people with other needs, please reach out to our church staff so that we can help find ways to get involved, as we seek always to serve God and love our neighbors.



Need a Mask??

Volunteers in our church have been hard at work sewing beautiful fabric masks. Do you need one? This expression of love from our talented church members is one way that we can take care of one another. If you do not have a mask yet or if you need another, please contact the church office or one of the ministers so that we can get a fabric mask to you.

Like to Sew?

We extend our deep gratitude to the volunteers in our church who have already made dozens of fabric masks for others who need them. If you would like to share your skills and join in this effort, call Will Brown or email him at wbrown@universitybaptist.org



Attention, All 2020 Graduates!

Please let the Church Office know if you are graduating this Spring from **high school or college or graduate school**.
And what are your future plans?

We want to include the names in our recognition in The Word. **Parents**, let us know about your graduates as soon as possible.

Let's Share!

During this season of social distancing, we'd love to use this newsletter to help us stay connected as individuals. Would you be willing to help? Each week we'd like to share a mini-interview with a church member, so that we can hear updates from one another. We need your help! Simply write a short answer to the three questions below, and email them to Lexi in the church office, or call the office at 434-293-5106. Her email address is lwoodson@universitybaptist.org

- 1) What has been the biggest surprise to you about the COVID-19 pandemic?
- 2) What has been the biggest inconvenience?
- 3) What has been an unexpected blessing?

We hope to hear from you soon!



Interview Response: Sarah Buchanan

1) What has been the biggest surprise to you about the COVID-19 pandemic?

Who would have ever imagined the world

running out of elastic??? I'm making masks for a sewing co-op called Cville Craft Aid that takes requests from health care providers and distributes the masks accordingly. If you don't have masks, please tell me, I'll make all of you a couple, seriously, all of you, just ask!!!

2) What has been the biggest inconvenience?

It's been excruciating not being able to touch my girls and my grandchildren. I'm a hugger, toucher, and kisser, I need my people!

3) What has been an unexpected blessing?

We are so grateful for friends, family, and a church who care and check on us, a wonderful home, plenty of groceries (and toilet paper!), cell phones, 999 TV channels, FaceTime, and I'm learning Zoom.



Painting in Progress

Over the next few weeks, the church building will be having exterior painting completed getting us ready for the spring!

**COVID-19
Emergency Assistance**

Has the COVID-19 Pandemic caused Financial Hardship
in your Household?

Do you Need Financial and Other Assistance?

Call the
Community Resource Hotline
for assistance
(434) 234-4490

This Fund is not a federal public benefit and does not impact immigration status changes
under the public charge rule.

Households in Charlottesville & the Counties of
Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa,
Nelson & Orange are eligible

Made possible through a partnership between:
Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
City of Charlottesville
County of Albemarle
Cville Community Cares
United Way of Greater Charlottesville
Many, many generous donors across the region



Need Groceries or Meals?

If you need groceries, meals, or medicines and don't want to go out shopping, let the church office know. Healthy volunteers with a lower risk of serious infection are willing to bring the needed items to your door.

A few people have already volunteered to help with this, but please also let us know if you're willing to be added to the list of healthy shoppers. You can contact the office or email pbrown@universitybaptist.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Online and Automatic Giving

Online giving simplifies contributing by allowing for a specific dollar amount to be sent to University Baptist Church on a specific date, thus decreasing the number of checks you have to write. You can set this up to happen automatically from your bank account, or make a single contribution on our website or Facebook page. For

more information, visit universitybaptist.org/give or call our church office.

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Connect with us

