

Text:
Topic:

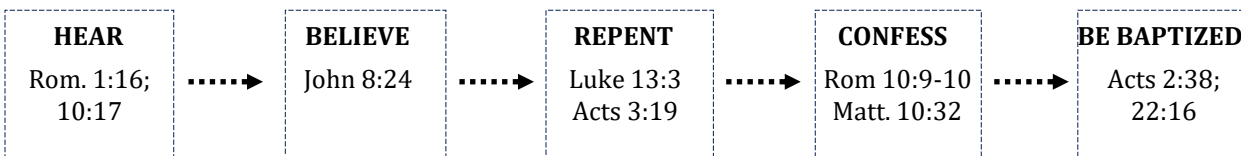
Sermon Notes



ORDER OF SERVICE

Song ~Announcements~ Song ~ Opening Prayer~ Song~ Scripture Reading~ Song~ Sermon~ Song~
Lord's Supper~ Offering~ Song~ Closing Prayer

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?



THE MESSENGER

*"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." **1John 1:5***

Volume 3 **March 19, 2023** **Issue 3**

Minister: Robert Webster
(708) 752-5589
(robster67@gmail.com)

www.westhammondcoc.com

westhammondcoc@gmail.com

1138 173rd St., Hammond IN 46324

Secretary: Sis. Ruthie Gamble
(708) 743-5439
(whcocsecretary@gmail.com)

WELCOME VISITING FRIENDS

If you are one of our visitors today, please know that we are indeed honored to have you. If you are a member of the Lord's body, thanks for choosing to worship with us today. If you are not a member of the Lord's church, we would be happy to meet with you and discuss how one becomes a member of the church which we read about in the New Testament. We aim to speak as they spoke and do as they did. We also offer a free Bible Correspondence Course which can be mailed to you. Or, someone would be glad to meet with you for a one-on-one Bible study. You can indicate your desire on a visitor's card and place it in the collection tray located at the front on the communion table.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Young Christians' Class10 a.m.
Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Worship Service11 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study (on Zoom)...7:00 p.m.

*I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalm 122:1*

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

SORROW AND JOY

Ezra 3:8-13

Angela's family reeled with sorrow as they experienced three bereavements in just four weeks. After the one involving the sudden death of their nephew, Angela and her two sisters gathered around the kitchen table for three days, only leaving to buy an urn, get takeout, and attend the funeral. As they wept over his death, they also rejoiced over the ultrasound photos of the new life growing within their youngest sister.

In time, Angela found comfort and hope from the Old Testament book of Ezra. It describes God's people returning to Jerusalem after the Babylonians destroyed the temple and deported them from their beloved city (SEE EZRA 1). As Ezra watched the temple being rebuilt, he heard joyful praises to God (3:10-11). But he also listened to the weeping of those who remembered life before exile (v. 12). One verse especially consoled Angela: "No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise" (v. 13). She realized that even if she was drenched in deep sorrow, joy could still appear.

We too might grieve the death of a loved one or mourn a different loss. If so, we can express our cries of pain along with our moments of rejoicing to God, knowing that He hears us and gathers us in His arms.

Why do you think you can experience both joy and sorrow at the same time? How can you cultivate joy today?

Prayer: Loving God, in this world we experience pain and suffering. Spark joy in me as I look to You for hope and peace.

- Amy Boucher Pye
Our Daily Bread

**"No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping".
(Ezra 3:13)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS:

~Please silence your *cell phones*.



~No *eating* in the auditorium.

New guest, please be sure to complete a Welcome Card.

Returning guest please **print** your name in the Returning Guest Log in the foyer.

Please send any *requests* and *announcements* to be made or to be included in the bulletin to Sis. Ruthie Gamble at 708-336-3120.

There is a *suggestion box* in the foyer.

Please review the *website* for any necessary updates. Also, if you would like a *year-end tax statement*, please contact Sis. Ruthie Gamble.

The *Ladies' Ministry* will resume Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6:30p.m. It promises to be a great spiritual and social boost for the ladies. We will be starting our *Men's Class* on the same date and time as our sisters at the church building also. Remember that these classes are every other week.

Annual Ladies Lectureship Retreat

Theme: *Christian Women Living Courageously in a Spiritual Pandemic*

Date: April 20-23, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Website: www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org

***Check the Ladies Retreat website for updated information.

FOR PRAYERS:

Sis. Cossom is currently battling a health issue. Sis Chaff's cousin, Toya House suffered a brain aneurysm and is now on life support.

The Carter & Thompson family, Sis Bell & family, The Cotton & Peden family, Sis. Helen McGee, Bro. Edward Davis, Sis. Ellis, The Brantfords, Sis. Glenda Carter, Stacye Forrest, cousin of the

Cunningham/Gamble families, Young family, Bryant family, Palanca family, Sis. Errika Williams & Scott family. The Conner family, Sis. Della White & family, Sis. Kenya & Kristopher Strickland, Sis. Davis, J. W. Kinds, Sis. Cunningham and Bro. & Sis. Taylor.

Please continue to pray for and encourage our new members Bro. Kristopher Strickland, Bro. Croom, Sis. Reba & Michelle Metevia, and Sisters Tillman and McLaurin.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES:

Children's Bible Class taught by Sis. Whitney Taylor (lower level).

Young Adult Class taught by Bro. Taylor. (upper level)

Adult Bible Class - main auditorium

We are seeking volunteers for *Sunday School teachers* for kids. Please see Bro. Webster for more information.

THIS WEEK:

SKILLS BANK

Remember to submit your information to be added to the skills bank and be diligent to do your verification for relevant licensing.

Sis. WebsterReal Estate Agent
Sis. Debra WoodardFinancial Advisor
Gambles Property Preservation & Custom Home, Business and Office Décor

NO BIRTHDAYS

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	76
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	47
Last Sunday offering	\$4096.72
Weekly Budget	\$2625.00