



The Lord said to Gideon, 'The troops with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand. Israel would only take the credit away from me, saying, "My own hand has delivered me."' Judges 7:2 (NRSV)

Roger's Ramblings

by Rev. Dr. Roger Clayton, Jr.

One of the monikers of Lent is giving up of some thing or activity for 40 days. I have spoken at length about the fact that whatever you give up should be directly tied to getting you in a better relationship with God. Hopefully, you took that lesson to heart, and, hopefully, you are close to succeeding in your quest as you struggle with temptation to stay away from that thing that you gave up.

However, this kind of work can have some adverse effects if we don't guard against certain outcomes. One of the main outcomes that comes from Lent in general is what I call a 'false recognition of strength'. I have seen many people succeed for 40 days of fasting, only to fail at the overall task because at the end of the 40th day they look in the mirror and say 'look how amazing I am!'

The passage from Judges comes from a period of disobedience of the Israelites that allowed for the Midianites to reclaim their lands, causing Israel to have to fight again to reclaim the Holy Land that was promised by God. Gideon shows up to the battle with more men, weapons, and power than the Midianite force, but God knows what will happen if the battle is won in this way for the Israelites. God tells Gideon, 'Israel would only take the credit'. I know that we would never dare to thin that we did everything, and God did nothing in such a feat as 40 days of fasting. However, many will be tempted to think that it was truly a 50/50 effort. This is just as bad.

As you make your way through Lent, remember Christ's words in John, "... apart from me you can do nothing." All victories are His, not ours; they are only ours because they are His. Keep your humility, and rest in His strength. Then, and only then, can you say that your faith and your life are truly built upon the a strong foundation.

15 He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ~Matthew 16:15

Who Do You Say?

by Michelle Cousineau, Communications Director

How would you answer this question? Who do you believe Jesus is? It's funny how our views of people change over time, isn't it? We think we know someone until we realize we don't know them at all. I had a friend who I thought was the sweetest, kindest person in the world. She was always helping others and being so selfless. Then one day, she blew up at me and a few other friends. She could not understand why no one seemed to notice how much she helped people, why they never say thank you or do anything nice for her! She was really upset, but in that moment, I realized she was not who I thought she was. In everything she did, she used God's name for her own notoriety.

When Jesus asked the disciples this question, Simon was the first to answer Him. ¹⁶

Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

(Matthew 16:16) Jesus asks this question to the disciples, but also to us. Who do you say Jesus is? Do you agree with Peter?

In John 11, Jesus goes to Martha and Mary after the death of their brother, Lazarus. You remember the story, Jesus got word Lazarus died, and He waited to go to him. When Jesus arrived at their home, Martha was bereft with grief and asked Jesus why He did not come right away. Jesus comforts her by letting her know that Lazarus will rise again and she lets Him know that she knows he will rise on the last day. ²⁵ ***Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'*** (John 11:25-26) He poses the same question to you. Do you believe this?

What we believe about Jesus shapes our Biblical worldview. If we believe He was just a prophet or a great teacher, but not the Son of God, then we are more willing to overlook those "little sins" and feel like we are doing better than we are. If we cannot see the man on the cross as the One True Son of God - who was raised up on the cross, died for each and every one of our sins, was buried and went to hell, and rose up from the grave defeating death once and for all, and now sits at the right hand of God the Father, ruling and reigning right now – then we cannot see God. If we don't believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, then we will never be able to stand before God our Creator in righteousness.

During this Lenten season, I pray all of you sits with the question, **who do you say Jesus is?** Ask how Jesus' sacrifice on the cross affects your own life? How should each of us live into the knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Resurrection and the Life?



April Birthdays

- Whitney Johns - 04/03
- Bennie Chambers - 04/04
- Logan Isle - 04/07
- Glenda Voigt - 04/07
- Judy Conner - 04/08
- Nancy Bewley 04/12
- C.W. Honea - 04/13
- Scot Vansickle - 04/15
- Charley Edmondson - 04/17
- Richard Seemann - 04/18
- Sumansha Ledalla - 04/19
- Landon Alexander - 04/26
- Michael Castillo - 04/30
- Jessie Presley-Oswald - 04/30

Can we pray for you? You can request prayer for you or someone you love by using our app, contact form at stjohnsgtowntx.com/prayer, or emailing the Prayer Team at prayerteam@stjohnsgtowntx.com.

Current and past articles of *Martha's Musings* can be found on our website blog at www.stjohnsgtowntx.com/blog.

Prayer Team meets on Monday mornings at 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM in the Horizon House, 216 E. 10th Street, Georgetown, TX 78626.

April Anniversaries

- Brian & Merry Wetherell - 04/07
- Bill & Sue Long - 04/14
- Doug & Denise Evers-Davis - 04/15
- Terry & Carol Nygaard - 04/16
- Doyle & Shirley Channell - 04/29

Coming Soon!

OUR NEW Directory!



It's time for a new church pictorial directory and it won't be our directory without you! Look for more information to follow.

SAVE THE DATE!

Universal Church Directories

May 27 & 28, 2025



Serve Your Church

Volunteers Needed

Members of St. John's are expected to serve. Whether that is service to fellow members within the congregation or service to those in the community abroad; it is part of the membership vows to be in service.

- Serve in worship through the tech team. **Contact Mac Sommerville** (audvid@stjohnsgtowntx.com)



April 2025 Events

Go to our app/website for all events

Event News

Join us in April as we continue our Lenten Walk with Christ to the cross and Resurrection.

- Holy Week Events April 13 - 20
- Poppy Fest Parking - April 25 - 26
- Single Board Meeting - April 28





St. John's Methodist Church History

St. John's has been a part of the Georgetown Community for over 140 years.

We started as a group of Swedish immigrants who joined together in their homes to study, worship and pray and built our first church building in 1882. At that time, we were known as the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Brushy Church (Svenska Metodistkyrkan at Brushy). The original church stood at the intersection of Westinghouse Road and FM 1460. Our church cemetery is still at this location.

In 1906 we moved to town, to our present home at 311 E. University Avenue, and in 1938 we changed our name to St. John's Methodist Church. In 1968, when the Methodist Church joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, St. John's became St. John's United Methodist Church.


In 2023, St. John's disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church, changing our name to St. John's Methodist Church and joined the Global Methodist Church.

Come join us and share in our rich history and heritage of celebrating God's love.

April Wesley Value Meals

- April 02 - Chicken-n-Rice
- April 09 - Taco Salad
- April 16 - NO MEAL/SERVICE
- April 23 - Goulash
- April 30 - Sausage

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH		
FEBRUARY 2025 DATA		
Table of income, expenses, and net total for December 2024		
	Church Activity YTD	Church Annual Budget
Income	\$95,897	\$541,848
Expenses	\$86,412	\$610,183
NET	\$9,485	(\$68,335)

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH	(512) 863-5886 www.stjohnsgtowntx.com
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