



The Glendale New Church
845 Congress Ave. Glendale, OH 45246 513-772-1478

The Precursor

April 2022

Our Mission:

The Glendale New Church connects heaven to earth by worshiping the Lord God Jesus Christ; discovering eternal truths in His Word; promoting spiritual awareness; and fostering community

Announcements

The Glendale New Church and the New Church of Montgomery are planning for an Easter Sunday service. Details will be announced soon! We will not be meeting on our usual "second Sunday of the month."

FROM THE WORD

Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on." Mark 12:41-44

Goodwill is not essentially measured by the excellence of one's role or of the gift itself, but by the fullness of feeling that led to it. Therefore a manual laborer who gives a single coin can be making a donation with more abundant goodwill than a ranking official who gives or wills an extensive collection of valuables. This fits the following statement: 'Jesus saw rich people placing their donations in the treasury. He also saw a poor widow throwing in two mites. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow threw in more than all the others"' (Luke 21:1-3). True Christianity §459

FROM THE PASTOR

What gives you a sense of security? Physically it may be a locked door. Spiritually it may be trust in God. How about psychological safety? Do you lock the door of your heart to certain people? And are there people you trust with your love? Perhaps there are circumstances when you carefully guard your resources, and people you withhold affection from. And then likely there are situations in which you are extremely generous, and people you would give – or are giving – your life to. What determines the difference between these two experiences?

Our survey of the Gospel of Mark seeks to observe the healthy psychological life Jesus is modeling. We see him acting from a secure attachment with God and people – he knows who he is and does not depend on others' opinions for his sense of self. He regularly reaches out with love without any expectation of a return,

and withstands resistance and rejection with little obvious disturbance. And in the end he actually does give his life because, we learn from him, his life is something other than his body. How does he do that?!?!

Jesus knows that his life is not his own. There are times that realization is challenged, and he has to pray to the Father for support. He regularly takes time away from everyone to either bask in the warmth of the divine love within him, or to process his fear so that he reconnects. We are not the incarnation of divine love, yet Jesus is modeling what we need to do to remain steadfast when our feeling of security – on any level of our life – is challenged. So, following Jesus' model, we need a regular spiritual practice that keeps our body and mind in synch with our trust in God. And whenever we are challenged, and begin to feel insecure, we will already have a practice in place to regain our trust, and our sense of connection with God.

The spiritual reality is that we do not source our life. It flows into us as a free, continuous gift. Therefore, on our own, of ourselves, we are not of much value. We can actually watch ourselves be egotistical, full of ourselves: watch for any mental process during which you assess the risk to your abundance before being generous. And we have experience complete security in those moments we overcome huge barriers by giving our lives to the task by being generous and of goodwill. Sometimes we begin with very little to actually give, but by giving it all, we are filled with joy.

If we live as though our life by itself is of little value, but that our real value is spiritual and a gift from the Lord, what we give away in this life will always seem to us a small part of our spiritual abundance. If someone tells us that we are being foolish, we readily admit our poverty, because we are actually relying on God's infinite abundance. We feel less risk because we are secure in

our trust in their real value of our lives given by God.

The significant result of this way of living, is that our sense of self does not rely on comparison with others. We know our value is intrinsic and abundant because we see our life as a manifestation of God's love in the world. We can give our all, and will never be diminished. Our worry for the future will be a positive caretaking for ourselves and others rather than a burden that interferes with our goodwill.

This is what Jesus saw and remarked upon when a bedraggled, stooped, old woman quietly passed by the trumpet-shaped offering bowl in the gate to the temple and dropped in her last two tiny coins. Our protestations of her foolishness miss the point. Our smug judgment of the rich also misses the point. Rather, we should be asking, exactly what scale of measure was Jesus using? She gave more of what?

Our whole lives are supposed to be gifts from a source of indefinite abundance. If we do as Jesus teaches, our focus will be on how we can give away a bit more of our love, our life. And as we all know if we look at our lives carefully, the necessary resources always appeared as needed.

Do we hold back for fear of lacking what we need? Focusing on the thought of "not having very much to give" will surely blind us to the great gift of love and caring we all already have in abundance, which never are exhausted.

Perhaps you share my yearning to sit on the bench in the gate with Jesus, and observe life going on, without any need to judge, fix, or finish. Like you, I am ready to weep for those represented by the widow, and cry out against the injustice that leaves people physically poor and sick.

We do not know the end of this story, even as we do not know what will happen when giving of ourselves without thought of scarcity. The task is to let go of the need to know the end to the story, and learn to live in the present moment, which is always filled with love and satisfaction. This is what Jesus is promising when we feel secure in God's love for us, and secure in our value established by God's love for us. We will be ready to give it all!

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 10am - Yoga
3	4	5 5:45pm - Yoga	6	7 6pm - Yoga	8	9 10am - Yoga
10 9am - Reckman	11	12 5:45pm - Yoga	13	14 6pm - Yoga	15 7pm - Good Friday Holy	16 10am - Yoga
17 11am - Easter Sunday	18	19 5:45pm - Yoga	20	21 6pm - Yoga	22	23 10am - Yoga
24	25	26 5:45pm - Yoga	27	28 6pm - Yoga	29	30 10am - Yoga

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 5:45pm - Yoga	4	5 6pm - Yoga	6	7 *Smith/Olgaschlager 10am - Yoga
8 11am - Online Worship	9	10 5:45pm - Yoga	11	12 6pm - Yoga	13	14 10am - Yoga
15	16	17 5:45pm - Yoga	18	19 6pm - Yoga	20	21 10am - Yoga
22	23	24 5:45pm - Yoga	25	26 6pm - Yoga	27	28 10am - Yoga
29	30	31 5:45pm - Yoga	1	2	3	4

Schedule

April 2022

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
4/3	
4/10	
4/15	7:00 pm –Good Friday Holy Supper Service - in the Church
4/17	11:00 am –Easter Sunday Service - in the Church
4/24	

May 2022

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
5/1	
5/8	11:00 am –Worship Service Online - contact Pastor Clark for details
5/15	
5/22	
5/29	

Keep calm and carry on!

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