

THE LORD IS AT HAND

Paul made reference to the Lord being at hand (Philippians 4:5). There is certainly a peace and great comfort in knowing that such is a reality. Think of the assurance of having help nearby. This is promise from Him who is faithful (Hebrews 10:23). No wonder Peter described the promises of God as precious (2 Peter 1:4). Notice with me some of these monumental occasions when the Lord is at hand and we are so very thankful for it.

When We Turn from Sin. The Bible speaks of the prodigal son coming to himself, repenting of sin, and coming home to his father. The Lord is the Father; He is ever at hand (Luke 15:17). There is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7, 10). The Lord delights in mercy and is ever ready to pardon (Micah 7:18; Isaiah 55:6-7). If we confess our faults, He is faithful and just to forgive (1 John 1:9).

When We Face Temptation. We will be tempted to sin (Hebrews 4:15). Even Jesus faced temptations (Matthew 4). The devil is sure to seek to devour us through his wiles and fiery darts (Ephesians 6:10-11; 1 Peter 5:8). When we are tempted, the Lord promises to make a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). Thank God He is not far from us (Acts 17:27).

When We Go to Him in Prayer. His ears are ever open to hear our prayers (1 Peter 3:12). God heard Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:5) and Daniel (Daniel 6), and He will hear your prayers. He is a Father who cares (Matthew 7:7-11). At any hour of any day, a faithful child of God can know that God is listening and will answer (1 John 5:14-16; 3:22).

When We Are Sick, Lonely, or in Tears. The Lord was at hand when Epauroditus was sick (Philippians 2) and when Paul was lonely (2 Timothy 4:16-17). God saw Hezekiah's tears (Isaiah 38) and Hagar's sorrows (Genesis 16). He is at hand when you have days of sickness, loneliness, and sorrow. He has promised to never leave nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5-6).

When We Face Death. David referred to the Lord's being with him when he walked through the valley of the shadow of death (Psalms 23:4). This truth gave early Christians the courage needed to face death because the Lord was at hand. They were not to fear what man could do (Matthew 10:28). The Lord stood up on the occasion of Stephen's death.

When We Obey or Disobey. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place" (Proverbs 15:3). All things are naked and open before Him (Hebrews 4:13). He truly knows our works (Revelation 2-3). He knows our thoughts (1 Corinthians 4:5). The Lord takes account of our deeds (Romans 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10). The Lord is ever at hand to give credit and reward for the good, but His justice will not ignore the evil.

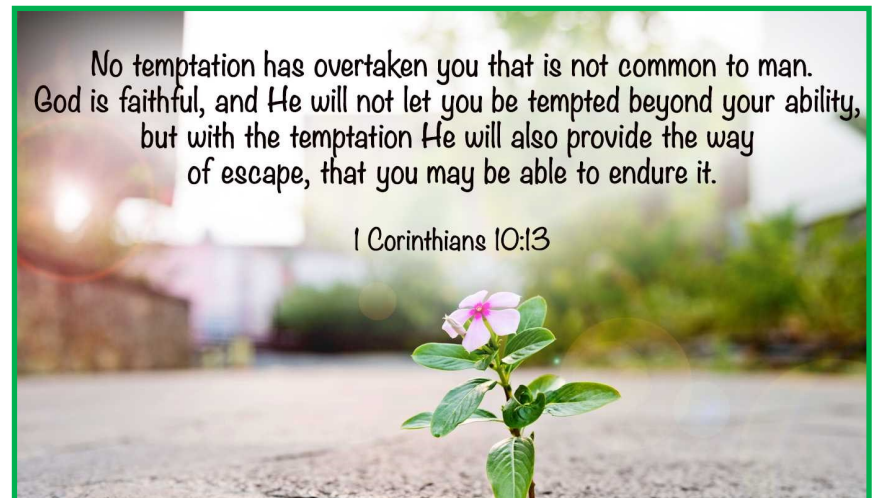
Yes, the good Lord is at hand. Draw nigh to Him, and He will draw nigh to you. One day, we can even be with Him eternally. (John 17:24,

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Melinda Abraham will have foot/ankle surgery Tuesday
- ◆ Tinker Langston will have knee replacement on February 28.
- ◆ Sympathy is extended to the Lane family after the death of Debra's mother Lorine Boozer of Batesville.
- ◆ Sympathy also goes to Dimple Mitchell and Marsha Crisp after the death of Dimple's sister Mary Scheer.
- ◆ Sympathy goes to the family and friends of Don Smiley of Theodosia. He was a neighbor of Tinker and Karen.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Larry Butler, Don Luna, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Rene Blackburn, Annette Chisam Tilley.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Harold Reynolds, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes, Wilbern Uchtman. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at River Lodge, Mtn. Home; Jack Moyers Southern Meadows.

Blessings

- ◆ Harold Reynolds has two treatments left. Thankful that his tumor has shrunk significantly.



| Birthdays | | Anniversaries | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 2-4 | Megan Goodman | 2-23 | Heath and Stephanie Maddox |
| 2-5 | Jim Kirkland | Birthdays | |
| 2-7 | Joan Nash | 2-27 | Mary Lou Snelson |

Barbara and Lana will be serving ham and pinto beans, oven fried potatoes, cornbread, and dessert for Wednesday night fellowship supper before Bible classes.

| Date | Event | Details |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Saturday, Feb. 3 | Movie Night at 5 p.m. | Hot dogs & popcorn |
| Saturday, Feb. 10 | Sweetheart Dinner, eat at 6 p.m. | Men cook for women starting about 2 p.m. |

Jesus was tempted more than anyone that has ever been tempted in all of human history because He was tempted directly by Satan and Satan appeared in person before Christ.

Cash Steven Rackley was born at 1:36 a.m. yesterday to Trent and Kaitlyn Rackley in Savannah, Georgia. He weighed 7 lb. 10 oz. They will be moving to the Springfield area in March. Steve and Jenny are proud grandparents.

| February Worship Assignments | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| Welcome & Prayer | | Communion & Closing Prayer | |
| 2-4 | Don Luna | D. E. Pleasant | |
| 2-11 | John Abraham | R. J. Moyers | |
| 2-18 | Mark Lane | Paul Wade | |
| 2-25 | David Stevens | Ryan Stevens | |
| Song Leader: Titus Smith | | | |
| Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna | | | |

The Family News
February 4, 2024
Gainesville Church of Christ
 PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655
www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org
A Place to Call Home
We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services
Sunday
 9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Topic: *Jesus Is Tempted*

Wednesday
 6 p.m. Fellowship Supper
 7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages
Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Prayer
 Kids Singing up Front
 #577, *We Bow Down*; #578, *We Will Glorify*
 #332, *Lead Me to Calvary*; Communion Service
 Scripture Reading by Waylon Strong, Matthew 4:1-2
 #166, *He's My King*
 Sermon and Invitation
 #947, *Jesus Is Tenderly Calling*
 #853, *When We All Get to Heaven*
 Shepherd's Prayer
 Offering baskets are at the back.

| Elders | | Deacons | |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Mark Lane | 417-679-4835 | Larry Butler | 817-504-1604 |
| Don Luna | 417-712-1945 | Dana Crisp | 417-331-5090 |
| David Stevens | 417-679-4700 | James Langston | 870-315-4355 |
| John Abraham | 870-421-5632 | Preacher | |
| | | Halbert Smith | 417-257-3880 |
| Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us | | | |