SPEAKER:

REV. JIMMY L. GATES, SR.

Morning Worship on March 13, 2022 at 11:30 AM
Morning Service
SUNDAY, March 13, 2022
11:30 A.M.
ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME ...................................................................................................................
SUNDAY SCHOOL .................................................................SIS BEVERLY DURST
DEVOTION ..........................................................DEACONS
PRAISE AND WORSHIP ........................................SIS LUCRETIA COLSTON BOLDEN
OFFERING ............................................................................................................
PRAISE AND WORSHIP ........................................SIS LUCRETIA COLSTON BOLDEN
THE SPOKEN WORD ..................................................REV. JIMMY L. GATES, SR.

MESSAGE: "Devine Optimism"

SCRIPTURE: John 11: 32-39

TIME TO RECEIVE THOSE WHOM THE LORD HAS CALLED ...................................
BENEDICTION .........................................................REV. JIMMY L. GATES, SR.
RECCESIONAL .........................................................LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responsive Reading today:  I Cor. 1:17-31

FROM THE PASTOR:

Sunday School online on Sunday's at 9:15 a.m. –
Call in: 978-990-5047 ~ Access Code 3312613#

Wednesday Bible Study online at 7 p.m. –
Call In: 701-802-5360 and Access Code: 7817353
“Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.” John 11:38-39

The text for today is but a portion of the entire chain of events that narrate the death of Lazarus in John 11. It is helpful to hold the entire chapter in mind as we prepare, but two verses and their verbs seem especially helpful for a sermon about death’s real sting.

John 11:33-35 capture Jesus’ response to Mary’s indictment: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not be dead!” What a charge! How many of us have also cried out to God with similar words: “If you loved us, you would not have let _____ die!”? Jesus can also observe the weeping of Mary, and the tears of those who were coming out from the house with her. Mourning and grief are profound in these verses.

The NRSV translates the end of verse 33 with “he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.” For the integrity of the Greek verbs and the reality of the wounds of death, this translation is too weak. The first verb has a connection to anger. It is not simply a strong feeling, but it is more of a passion and pain that comes from anger at the situation (also used in v. 38).

The root of the second verb is tied to a stirring up of oneself on the insides. It can be used in a physical sense for stirring up water, disturbing the calmness of the still water. In a more personal sense, it signifies both mental and internal disturbance that is akin to almost being physically sickened and disturbed. Then in the shortest verse of the Bible, verse 35. Jesus weeps.

Jesus has the same reaction that the mourners do, he weeps real tears. Jesus was groaning deeply in his spirit, and he was stirred up in his mind, heart, and body by Lazarus’ death. He cried aloud. Even the incarnate God is broken in his heart and soul by the death of his friend Lazarus. Death grieves God. So also, does death break our hearts and stir up our souls.

What are we to say in the midst of the suffering and reality and death? Is it enough to toll the bells and read the names? No. We are to proclaim the truth of the sting and stench of death. We are to acknowledge the grief and anger that may never totally depart those who are left in this life. We are to state the reality of the disturbing fact of the brutality of death. The gospel truth does reign. We have our hope not on things on this earth but in the power of the cross of Christ and the resurrection of those who are his children. Jesus’ words of John 11:25 are the resounding gospel note that we proclaim this day: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. From “Devine Disappointment” to “Devine Optimism” “WHEN GOD DOES NOT DO WHAT WE WANT HIM TO DO”
Etiquette
* Please refrain from walking and using the middle aisle during worship service
* Exiting/Entering the sanctuary during prayer and ministry of giving is not permitted
  * No food, gum or drink permitted in the sanctuary
  * Please silence cell phones
* Please no talking during offertory service
* Pray for the Sick, and Shut-in and those in bereavement
* Come to Bible Study and hear the speakers on people who had relationships in the Bible
You matter,
Understand your risks,
Take control of your health.
2022 Minority Men's

Health Fair
Thursday, April 28, 5-8:30 PM
One day. Three locations.
Main Campus Medical Center       Broadway Health Center
Outpatient Pavilion              6835 Broadway Avenue
2500 MetroHealth Drive           Cleveland, OH 44105
Cleveland, OH 44109              Cleveland Heights Medical Center
Cleveland, OH 44109              10 Severance Circle
30+ FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Blood Pressure
Diabetes
Dermatology
HIV
Hepatitis A & B
Mental Health
Cholesterol
Balance & Memory
Podiatry
Urology
Prostate
Lung Health
Dental
Vision
& more

Dr. Modlin has dedicated his career to bringing better health care access to our communities.

Charles Modlin, MD, MBA
Medical Director, Equity, Inclusion & Diversity,
Staff Urologist MetroHealth Medical Center

For more information or to register, visit metrohealth.org/mmhf