



THE

FORECASTER

FAIRMOUNT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 | Volume 73 | Number 8



Exiles play a large part in the thematic progression of the Bible. In essence, Joseph is exiled from his homeland by his own family. But in exile, he rescues his family when famine ravages the world.

After their continued disobedience, God Himself exiles the nations of Israel and Judah into prolonged captivity. In captivity we see a remnant maintain the Jewish faith, reestablishing that faith in Jerusalem with the rebuilding of that great city.

In both of those particular instances, exile was forced on someone else.

Then, along comes Peter, who writes in 1 Peter 1:1 that, if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you are an exile in your own world. Christians are exiles by choice – choosing to live in a world that is not our own until we can go to our homeland, the Promised Land of heaven.

In many ways, our current national/global crisis has made each of us exiles not by our own choice – cast into exile by a mysterious, yet deadly disease. Many have become, in many ways, exiles in their own homes.

The questions arise, how then do we live as exiles? How can we live in social isolation but still be the salt and light Jesus has called us to be? How can we love our neighbor when we can't get close to our neighbor? What does a life in isolation look like behind the closed doors of our homes? These are important questions for exiles to ask.

This May, the preaching team will be working through 1 Peter and sharing five action steps for thriving in isolation. We want to survive this odd time – but, more importantly, we want to come out on the other side of isolation stronger in our faith and stronger in our witness.

Like the Jews returning to rebuild Jerusalem, we all look forward to being together again as soon as possible. Until then, please join us each week online – invite your friends to join us as well.

Join Us Virtually!

Join us for services on Sundays at 9am and 11am on our website, fairmountcc.org or by subscribing to our YouTube channel, youtube.com/c/Fairmountcc.

Our facility is closed to all meetings, activities, and visitors and all church staff are working remotely.

Kids & Teens

The Virtual Memory Station is open Sundays from 10:15-10:45am - Call in and recite your memorized verses from the Treasures in Heaven Memory Cards (kidsrhis.org) or any verses you've been memorizing. Call, facetime, or video chat with Jennifer Hare - 909-0340 (iphone); Rose Hendricks - 387-7090 (iphone); or Ashley Sears- 306-8633 (Android).

Virtual Bible School & Kids Worship: Elementary Bible School and Jr. Church Online links are posted on the Fairmount Facebook pages and can be accessed through YouTube on the Fairmount channel.

Wednesday Worship Time: Join us on the Fairmount Facebook page for a time of worship including a devotion from children's ministry leaders and praise and worship. Elementary time is at 10am; Preschool time at 2pm.

FCYM Wednesday Zoom Meetings: Tune in each week for a 30 minute time of fellowship. Middle School - 1pm; High School - 2pm. Links and passwords sent weekly.

FCYM - Stay Connected! Join a Facebook Group - FCYM High School or FCYM 6th-8th Grade; Text FCYM to 94033 for text updates; Message youth@fairmountchristian.org to receive email updates; Check out our website - www.fcym.info

FCYM - Devotions with Davis: Sundays at 10:00am



Fresh Hope Virtual Meetings

Message our confidential email to receive specific online information/directions.

Confidential Email

freshhope@fairmountcc.org

YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathy to Ellen Cumby & family at the passing of her father, **Harry Dudley Scott**, on March 13th in McCoy, VA.

Sympathy to the family & friends of Elisha Bunn "E.B." Barnes who passed away on March 14th.

Sympathy to the family & friends of Marcy Guillen who passed away on March 31st.

Sympathy to Nick Polivka & family at the passing of his father, **Nicholas James Polivka, Sr.**, on March 31st.

Sympathy to Ralph Ellis & family at the passing of his brother, **Bernard "Bernie" Ellis**, on April 4th.

Sympathy to Kay Henderson & family at the passing of her husband, **James "Jim" Henderson**, on April 6th.

Sympathy to Kenny Holley & family at the passing of his father, **Edwin D. Holley**, on April 17th.

Sympathy to Don Burglund & family at the passing of his brother, **Clifford M. Burglund**, of Long Island, NY, on April 17th.

Sympathy to the family & friends of Alvin "Bo" Glasco who passed away April 19th.

Sympathy to the family & friends of Ross Alfred "Al" Echols, Jr., who passed away on April 21st.

Sympathy to Steve Winters & family at the passing of his father, **James Allan Cofer "Jimmy" Winters**, on April 22nd.

Sympathy to Kim Goodman, Butch Parrish, & their families at the passing of their father, **Howard L. Parrish, Jr.**, on April 23rd.

Sympathy to Tom Rummel & family at the passing of his mother, **Dorothy H. Rummel**, on April 29th.

Sympathy to Linda Nuckols & family at the passing of her husband, **Willie Grayson "Pop" Nuckols, Jr.**, on April 30th.

Fred Ryan thanks everyone for all the cards and prayers during his surgery and recovery.

Don Burglund thanks his Fairmount family for all the cards, calls, and prayers at the recent loss of his brother. Having a loving church family has really gotten him through this difficult time.

Ellen Cumby & family thank everyone for their prayers and cards of comfort at the recent passing of Ellen's father, **Dudley Scott**.

OUR CHURCH				
ATTENDANCE & GIVING		04/26	05/03	05/10
9:00	Traditional Worship Online Views:	533	491	451
11:00	Cont/Mod Worship Online Views:	433	349	289
Total:		966	840	740
Budget Requirements:		\$49,127	\$49,127	\$49,127
Budget Receipts:		\$45,630	\$66,885	\$38,461

Rick's Reflections

Below is a blog post from one of our dear Fairmount family members, **Janey Dalrymple**. Janey continues her valiant battle with cancer. She is one of my heroes. I hope you will be blessed as you read her powerful testimony below. She calls this blog entry, "Journey". I call it, "Run to Him". And I hope during this time of cultural chaos and uncertainty you will indeed, run to Him. You can follow her journey at <https://liveyourmissionblog.com/>.

Last year around this time I was about to step foot across the threshold of one of the most difficult times in my life. Then, it wasn't possible to imagine the challenges that a journey through breast cancer would involve.

The emotional stress of a diagnosis, the fear of outcomes, the ravages of chemo and the exhausted steps of moving through life were not just things I experienced. My family experienced them, too. At one point, family tragedy compounded the difficulties of sickness. Jagged edges of grief sliced us all to the core.

Families are families because they intimately share life. Joys, celebrations, laughter and success are celebrations that weave like golden strands through families. Sickness, fear and tragedy weave strands as well. I am fully convinced that without God as the Master Weaver, my family would have slipped over the precipice before this journey was fully underway. At times, we clung with a fingertip grip along an impossibly sheer rock face, knowing there was no way to hold on or move forward. Letting go of our tenuous hold and crying out to God for His merciful grip was the only way to survive.

God is the One who wove faith into our picture of fear, calm into our fabric of panic, and hope into the garment of dread that satan wanted to shroud us in. Only God can turn devastation into development and panic into peace. Only He can bring healing from hurt and hope from hopelessness.

As satan did with Job, I believe he asks God, here and now, for permission to inject difficulty into the lives of believers, which he obviously intends for harm. Only the Sovereign Lord can work that which is intended for destruction into good.

Good, however, is usually defined differently in God's vocabulary. Good, to Him, may sometimes mean spiritual and character development, a re-fabrication of our fallen selves into a new creation that looks more like the character of Jesus. It comes at a price we would not willingly pay; but He knows that the sharpest tools we run from: pain, tragedy, illness and suffering, are often the tools which are most effective in the refinement process.

Do I feel refined? I wish I could say, "YES!!" Perhaps better questions are these: Is God able? Is He merciful? Is He in control? Can He work good out of tragedy? Does He love as a father, with compassion and sensitivity to what is truly in the best, eternal interest of His child?

YES!! To all those questions, and more. That answer isn't just

a coined response. It's an answer forged in the fire of tribulation.

God has been with my family and I every single step of this journey. He will continue to be with us as I walk through remaining treatment and continue to regain physical strength. He will be with all of us as we move forward, past one of the rockiest stretches of life we have ever encountered.

He has comforted, blessed, healed, taught, guided, restored and provided. He has strengthened our family ties with the knots of sickness, heartache, loss and grief. He has been intimately involved in the detail of our lives, and we are thankful, for He is good, and He has been our refuge.

In a morning devotion with my girls, we talked about trouble. "What can it do in someone's life?" I asked. "Make people run to God or away from God?"

"It depends," my 13 year old said. "Some people get angry at God, and run away."

"That's true," I replied. "What have you seen your mom and dad do?"

"Run to Him," she said, without hesitation.

That's not to our credit. It just shows our weakness and God's strength.

If the troubles we have endured served only as an example to our teens of where to run when trouble comes, then that would be enough; but God has done so much more than that.

Do you need to know which way to run? Has the global pandemic forced you onto a treacherous trail of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty? Has it added to the normal, daily troubles that already exist, so that you're clinging only with a fingertip grip? Run to the God of all Creation who wants to be intimately involved in the detail of your life.

Seek Him. Read the Word. Confess your mistakes and weaknesses. (We all have them!) Realize that you are not in control. Relinquish your life, your will, your fears, your problems, to the Lord. Ask Him to move you forward in the way He wants you to go.

"I love you, God – You make me strong. God is bedrock under my feet, the castle in which I live, my rescuing knight. My God – the high crag where I run for dear life, hiding behind the boulders, safe in the granite hideout."

Psalm 18:1-2 (MSG)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

May 2020

- 13- Wednesday Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- 14- Thursday Jeremiah 38:14-18
- 15- Friday Jeremiah 21:1-7
- 16- Saturday 2 Kings 24:20b-25:7
- 17- Sunday Jeremiah 21:8-14
- 18- Monday Deuteronomy 24:17-22
- 19- Tuesday Deuteronomy 17:18-20
- 20- Wednesday Psalm 15
- 21- Thursday Jeremiah 22:11-19
- 22- Friday Jeremiah 22:20-23
- 23- Saturday Jeremiah 22:24-30
- 24- Sunday Jeremiah 22:1-10
- 25- Monday Genesis 28:10-17
- 26- Tuesday Acts 15:10-17
- 27- Wednesday Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19
- 28- Thursday Matthew 2:13-15
- 29- Friday Hosea 11:3-6
- 30- Saturday Philemon 8-21
- 31- Sunday Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10; 12:1-2, 6-14 ■



All scripture is inspired by God
and is useful for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, and
for training in righteousness...

2 Timothy 3:16, NRSV

June 2020

- 1- Monday Acts 6:1-7
- 2- Tuesday 2 Timothy 1:3-9a
- 3- Wednesday Psalm 34:11-18
- 4- Thursday Matthew 26:47-52
- 5- Friday 1 Kings 4:29-34
- 6- Saturday Proverbs 4:1-9
- 7- Sunday Proverbs 4:1-4, 7-8, 10-11, 20-22, 32-33
- 8- Monday Galatians 6:1-10
- 9- Tuesday Romans 15:1-6
- 10- Wednesday 2 John 4-11
- 11- Thursday Genesis 39:6b-18
- 12- Friday Proverbs 2:12-19
- 13- Saturday Proverbs 2:20-22; 4:24-27
- 14- Sunday Proverbs 2:1-11
- 15- Monday 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- 16- Tuesday Job 1:1-5
- 17- Wednesday Job 42:10-17
- 18- Thursday Proverbs 8:1-7
- 19- Friday Proverbs 8:22-31
- 20- Saturday Proverbs 8:32-36
- 21- Sunday Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21
- 22- Monday Psalm 119:97-104
- 23- Tuesday Matthew 25:1-13
- 24- Wednesday Ephesians 3:7-13
- 25- Thursday 1 Corinthians 6:1-6
- 26- Friday Matthew 7:24-27
- 27- Saturday Psalm 1
- 28- Sunday Proverbs 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18
- 29- Monday Matthew 10:16-23
- 30- Tuesday Isaiah 35:3-10 ■

From the Elders

By Kevin Bartlett

Like a lot of you, Saturday is the day when I get most of my yard work done. So it should come as no surprise that this past weekend I was again in the yard doing chores. As soon as things dried up from the previous night's showers I began the task of cutting and trimming the grass. In a few short hours I got all of the mowing and trim work taken care of but just as I started cleaning the sidewalks and the driveway with my trusty backpack blower, rain started falling again. I was frustrated because I thought I had heard the local weather prognosticator say that the rain would hold off until after dark. So I reluctantly put everything away and walked into the house sulking over the inability to finish my project. Nothing bothers me quite as much as having a plan, a goal to be reached, and not being able to fulfill it because of outside, uncontrollable forces.

I look at our current situation in much the same way. Plans for Easter gatherings, spring break trips, graduations, and spring weddings have had to come to a halt because of an unexpected outside force, the COVID virus. Our weekly church services, Bible studies, and support group meetings have been affected in ways we never would have thought possible just two short months ago. Our lives, jobs, and travel plans have been upended by a powerful unseen enemy that is no respecter of title, wealth, or creed. We fear the unknown of it all and wait desperately for the sun to shine again and bring normalcy back to life. But even in the turmoil of it all, God was not surprised. He knew it was coming and I rest assured that He has a plan to use it for His own glory. Maybe this is His way of starting a revival in the hearts of those who have moved away from His presence. Maybe it's a way to show some of us that it is time to quit being mere pretenders of the faith and put our full trust in Him. I cannot tell you what lesson God has for you during this most strangest of times, but there is one that He is trying to get you to see. It's up to you and me to search it out for our own growth, for our own walk. And yes, He will be right there beside us all the way through the journey. In fact He will probably be carrying us most of the way. So trust in His plan and let your heart rest in the confidence of His protection. Let the Son shine on your life.

On Sunday afternoon the sun again was out, so I finished what little I had left to do and then relaxed looking around at God's creation. The beauty of nature and the songs of the birds lightened my heart. The opportunity to sit in the sun and spend time in conversation with my wife and friends, even if it was only a video chat, brought a peace and rest that was much appreciated. God has a plan even in this virus, wait patiently for it to be revealed and you will feel closer to Him more than ever, and a peace will wash over you like you've never felt before.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

May God bless your heart and soul today.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **May Manna Sunday Update** – Over 3,500 pounds of food collected; 110 cars dropped off food; donations distributed to Moments of Hope and MCEF. Our next Manna Sunday will be on June 7th. Be sure to spread the word amongst your friends, family members, neighbors, and on your social media accounts.
- **Blood Drive:** Blood drives at Fairmount have been postponed at this time, but your help is still needed. Please visit redcrossblood.org to find blood drives in your area.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION Sunday, June 7th

Attention 2020 High School & College Grads

Your church family wants to recognize your hard work and celebration this wonderful achievement with you!

Send your full name; the name of the school you're graduating from; the type of diploma or degree you're receiving; any special honors or scholarships you've received; and what your future plans are (school, field of work, military). Include a current or graduation photo. All this will be used in a fun virtual presentation during June 7th worship services, and in the creation of a printed keepsake which we'll mail out to you. Please be sure to let us know how many copies you'd like and the mailing address where we should send them.

Email everything to grads@fairmountcc.org no later than Monday, June 1st. If you're unable to email a photo, let us know and we'll work out a way to get it from you, scan it, and return it to you. Thanks!



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fairmountchristian.org

EXILED

Last Sunday, we began a new sermon series, 'Exiled – Thriving in Isolation'. These unprecedented times have led all of us straight to Scripture. Using the book of 1 Peter, we'll share Biblical strategies for thriving in this current situation.

- May 10th Be Holy 1 Peter 1
- May 17th Be Good 1 Peter 2
- May 24th Be Prepared 1 Peter 3
- May 31st Be a Servant 1 Peter 4
- June 7th Be Humble 1 Peter 5