



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO

(Disciples of Christ)

March 30, 2021

From the Preacherman....

“I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” (Mark 14:34). These haunting words are spoken by Jesus in Gethsemane to his dearest friends, Peter, James and John. The hour of his betrayal is at hand and Jesus has been wrestling with God’s will for his life. The scene is among the most difficult in all of Scripture to consider. Jesus prays for the cup of suffering to pass from his lips. Throwing himself on the ground to pray, he slowly comes to terms with the truth that the journey set before him cannot be avoided.

“Keep awake and pray,” Jesus says. That is the requirement of his disciples, then and now, during his Passion. Keep awake and pray. That doesn’t sound so hard, not compared to some of the other things Jesus calls disciples to do. Love your enemies. Forgive not just seven times, but seventy-times-seven times. Wash the feet of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Those are extremely difficult, so why couldn’t Peter, James and John keep their eyes open to watch and pray, even for a little while?

Is the problem sheer exhaustion? That’s part of it. I’ve known times like that, when minutes seemed like hours and hours seemed like days. To be still even for a moment meant certain slumber. Worn down by the weight of life and looming trouble, it’s hard to watch and pray for long without sleep overtaking the weary soul.

Is the problem a lack of understanding? That’s likely as well. Jesus has called his disciples aside for prayer before. Even though he has just physically offered himself to them at the Last Supper and even though he has talked increasingly about his death, they miss the gravity of the moment and sleep. Cluelessness was a characteristic of disciples then and now.

But maybe the problem is something deeper and more troubling. Maybe the disciples simply decided it wasn’t all that important. It just didn’t matter. I’m sure physical limits had been reached, and I am sure that they didn’t understand, but the refusal to share in his struggle is also a choice. To participate in his suffering is also to share in his resurrection. The two are inseparable. You cannot have the joy of Easter without the horror of Good Friday. It’s all one story, his, yours and mine. Keep awake. And pray.

Peace....Chris

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Owensboro, Kentucky Mission Statement

“Our mission is to manifest Christ’s love by empowering all to compassionate service.”

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Mission Statement

“We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us.”

FCC STAFF

Ministers.....The Congregation
Sr. Minister.....Rev. J. Chris Michael
Minister of Pastoral Care....Pam Woodward
Financial Manager.....Kristin Callis
Secretary.....Anne Carlisle
Pianist.....Ann Jeannette Pierce
Choir Director.....Mike Tichenor
Nursery Attendants.....Cynthia Smith
Chandler Fleischmann
Elea Roach

Church Office 270-684-8879
Church Email: anne@fccowb.org
Web Address: www.fccowb.org

Church Office Hours
Mon–Thurs 8 am–noon and 1 – 5 pm

You may listen to our worship service via your computer or smartphone by accessing www.MIXLR.com/FirstChristianChurch at 9 am CT Sunday, or by using a speakerphone dialing 1-214-699-5100. The access code is 6939237#

FCC App for iPhone & Android
Stay connected with the church, download from the App Store and Google Play - First Christian Church—Owensboro