



Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

NEWSLETTER

2320 State Highway 2 Mount Ayr, IA 50854 www.angel-message.org
High Priest Sherman Phipps, Presiding Elder Lamoni, Iowa Phone 641-784-6823



*He Leadeth me beside the still
waters. He restoreth My Soul.
...Surely, goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life.*

News & **Notes**

Graduations

Aquila Galusha and Elizabeth Rolfe will both be graduating from Lamoni High School May 20th. The congregation is invited to Aquila's reception to be held at North Park, Saturday May 19th & Elizabeth's held Sunday May 20th. Congratulations to both of you!!

Be Ye One

The 2012 Seventy Missionary Family Reunion will be held again this year at

Graceland University, June 24-30. Registration can be made online by visiting <http://restorationseventy.org/SeventyReunion/>.

Family Retreat

There is a family retreat at Geneseo, Illinois Memorial Day weekend, May 25-28. See Cheryl Phipps or the back table for further information.

Contents

FEATURE:	PAGE:
Sermons	
H.P. Sherman Phipps	2
Elder Gordon Winkler	5
Priest Rodney Bastow	10
H.P. H. Alan Smith	12
Sharing Service	16
.....	
News & Notes	1
Pastoral Considerations	2



Pastoral Considerations

Substituted by Elder Michael Jordison

For eight weeks Julia and I did something that neither one of had ever done before. Normally on Wednesday evenings we would find ourselves with our children attending a prayer and testimony service. But we chose to invest some much needed time into our relationship, and for two months did something that perhaps many would say was foolish. In the grand scheme of things learning to ballroom dance might be considered foolish, however, for 5 hours a week we spent time with each other learning to communicate in a way that was very new to us, but also insightful.

You see dancing requires that the two parties communicate non-verbally, picking up on subtle cues that might only be just the slightest touch of the hand. To get it right, they must spend a lot of time together learning how to both read one another and respond to each other in an instant with the faintest pressure or movement.

Our instructor told me that ninety percent of the problems with couples dancing are the man's fault. And grinning, he said that in my case it might be closer to ninety-five percent. You see, it is almost always the man who leads the dance. If his frame is weak, his cues sloppy and his footwork out of rhythm, then the woman, no matter how good a dancer she is cannot follow him with any sense of real grace. It quickly becomes a disaster (and might just end up with a heated argument on the floor).

If life is a dance, then it is we who must learn to follow the slightest cue from the One who is to lead us. This means that we must spend hours together learning how to communicate in ways that are not always verbal, but through actions, with much conditioning. However He makes us to swing and sway, move backward or forward, we must learn to never let go of His hand always trusting that He will be there to catch us, trusting in His ways.

You see, He is not like us. His frame is perfect; rigid and constant, without the faintest weakness. His cues, though sometimes very slight and gentle, are each deliberate and always at the right time. His rhythm is always spot on for He is always where He is supposed to be with His hold supporting us in just the proper way that we need.

If you and I expect to move with Jesus Christ as *one* we must not only learn to let Him lead us, but learn to read and understand all of His cues, otherwise known as His commands. They will never lead us wrong. Happy dancing!

“I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU”



High Priest Sherman Phipps

Lamoni, Iowa

April 1, 2012

High Priest Alan Smith used 3 Nephi 8:33-36 as a Call to Worship. *And this shall ye always observe to do, even as I have done, even as I have broken bread, and blessed it, and gave it unto you. And this shall ye do in remembrance of my body, which I have shewn unto you. And it shall be a testimony unto the Father, that ye do always remember me. And if ye do always remember me, ye shall have my Spirit to be with you.*

Brother Smith shared the following preparatory remarks prior to the taking of communion. I was reading the other day about some of the most expensive meals that you can buy. There was one restaurant that had some kind of a special meal where you could spend \$15,000.00 for the meal. I don't know who has the money to do that but somebody must or they wouldn't have it on their menu. I heard that because of the Titanic's 100th anniversary they were having a recreation of the first meal on board after the Titanic shipped out. It was going to cost \$160,000.00 to put the meal on. That's a pretty expensive meal.

Do you realize what it cost for the meal that we are having this morning?



One of the songs in Nathan's (Smith) cantata that they are performing this next weekend in Independence, Missouri goes like this,

*You prepare a table before me.
I will come and meet you there.
Oh may I never forget
what it costs you to prepare,
what it costs you to prepare.*

*You called your disciples together
to a quiet upper room.
How you treasured that hour of
closeness
knowing you would leave them soon.*

*You blessed bread and wine before
them
and you bade them drink and eat.
You asked them to remember
and then you knelt and washed their
feet.*

*Again you invite me to join you
to share the bread and wine.
I remember your blood and your body
precious gifts of love divine.*

*From that tree that stood in Eden
to the cross on Calvary,
You carry your plan of perfection,
You prepare a place for me.*

*You prepare a table before me.
I will come and meet you there.
Oh may I never forget
what it costs you to prepare,
what it costs you to prepare.*

This morning in class we read a scripture from Alma 5:20-23 which says, *And he shall go forth, suffering pains, and afflictions, and temptations of every kind; And this that the word might be fulfilled which saith, He will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people; and he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people: And he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities. Now the Spirit knoweth all things; nevertheless the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh, that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions, according to the power of his deliverance; and now behold, this is the testimony*

which is in me. May we never forget what it cost the Lord to prepare what we will be sharing this morning. The congregation then participated in the partaking of the communion

Brother Milo Burnett shared through the inspiration of the Spirit with each member of one of the families present at the congregation. He then spoke to the congregation as a whole saying, 'you have the potential of becoming an ensign to not only this community but to this part of Iowa. You have the potential of becoming a dynamic congregation that has vibrancy and has all of your members here and not just some of them. Reach out to the ones who are not here today and help remind them of the testimony they had at the waters of baptism that they might recognize that they too have made a covenant that they need to continue and to keep. Your Heavenly Father is pleased with you and looks forward to the times when you will be able to reach new boundaries that you have not yet reached at this point in time. Thus saith the Spirit to you this day in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.'

Alan Smith stated, 'I'd like to confirm the message of the Lord to each one of you.'

Brother Sherman Phipps then brought the following ministry.

I hope that which I am able to share with you this morning is also directed by the Spirit. I wanted to take just a few minutes to visit with you about a part of these two communion prayers that you've heard this morning. At the end of each of these prayers, and I'll just read the one from the prayer over the bread, that says *'that they (we) are willing to take upon them the name of Thy Son and always remember Him and keep His commandments which He has given them that they may always have His Spirit to be with them.'* The other prayer says also, *'that they may have His Spirit to be with them.'* As I prepared for this morning I wondered if there are times when we don't feel that Spirit with us to the extent we'd like it to be. We've just experienced the Spirit working in our midst so maybe this is a poor time to be asking the question. But, are there times in your daily walk when you don't feel like the Spirit is with you? I want you to think about this prayer because it says we will always have His Spirit to be with us if we obey His

commandments and always remember Him.

The other things that I wanted us to consider this morning is found in 3 Nephi 8:60. *And now behold, this is the commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall not suffer any one knowingly, to partake of my flesh and blood unworthily, when ye shall minister it, for whoso eateth and drinketh my flesh and blood unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to his soul.* It talks about the fact that if we eat and drink of the Lord's flesh and blood in this service unworthily then we eat and drink damnation to our souls. This has always been a great concern for me. On the one hand we have the promise that we can always have His Spirit to be with us. On the other hand, I guess you could say it's a promise also, that if we do not partake worthily of these emblems, which means being repentant, humbling ourselves and always remembering Him and obeying His commandments, then we eat and drink damnation to our souls.

I wanted you to consider this morning these scriptures. The reason that I wanted you to think about them was because I think I have, in the past, thought that if I didn't come humbly, repentantly and obediently to the communion service then the Lord was going to punish me with damnation. That's not really what He's saying. Let's look at Alma 5:20-22 which is talking about Jesus. *And he shall go forth, suffering pains, and afflictions, and temptations of every kind; And this that the word might be fulfilled which saith, He will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people; and he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people: And he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.* This is the same scripture that Alan used earlier. There are a couple of other scriptures that I wanted you to look at and consider along with this. Not only did He do this for us but in Mosiah 1:100-102 it says something similar, *And lo, he shall suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death; For behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be his anguish for the wickedness and the abominations of his people. And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of*



heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary.

Let's switch for a minute to the Doctrine and Covenants 18:2f-k. *Wherefore, I command you to repent, and keep the commandments which you have received by the hand of my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., in my name; and it is by my almighty power that you have received them; therefore I command you to repent--repent, lest I smite you by the rod of my mouth, and by my wrath, and by my anger, and your sufferings be sore--how sore you know not! how exquisite you know not! yea, how hard to bear you know not! For, behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer, if they would repent; but if they would not repent, they must suffer even as I; which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit, and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink; nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men; wherefore, I command you again to repent, lest I humble you by my almighty power, and that you confess your sins, lest you suffer these punishments of which I have spoken, of which in the smallest, yea, even in the least degree, you have tasted at the time I withdrew my Spirit.* Here's what I want you to think about. Christ gave His body and His blood in a way that I don't think any of us could do. I know that we couldn't do it in the same way that He did it. Even physically I don't know that we could survive what He survived as long as He did. He did it completely willingly. There was no resistance, no fighting back – just submission and obedience to the will of the Father. I don't know that I would do that. I would be fighting back, resisting but He didn't because He knew that it was important to all of mankind for these things to take place and for Him to sacrifice Himself.

So when we come here on these Communion Sundays I hope that we come considering what it means to say to Him, I will always remember you. I will always keep your commandments. He's been looking for a people for thousands of years who would keep His commandments so that He might do for them what he proposed to do when He laid His body down for them. You know there's a

scripture in Matthew 22. It talks about the king preparing a feast and then the people who were invited told him that they were sorry but they were busy. So he sent his servants out in the streets and invited everybody else to come in and participate in this feast. Then when they came in and the king appeared there was a man that he noticed did not have on the wedding garment. He told his servants to bind him and cast him out. I have wondered sometimes what that meant. As I was reading this a while back I realized that it likely means the same thing as partaking of these communion emblems unworthily. This man had been invited in and he came in unclean. It's interesting to me that's what the king had ended up doing when the people he had invited didn't come was to send his servants to go out on the streets and gather whoever they could gather. That probably means the unclean but apparently most of them when they came and got there realized that this was a special occasion and they took time to

"He's been looking for a people for thousands of years who would keep His commandments so that He might do for them what he proposed to do when He laid His body down for them."

clean themselves up as best they could. I would associate that with repentance. They recognized that this was a great honor for them to have been invited to this wedding by someone who had much greater status than they did. However, apparently there was one among them who just kind of wandered in hoping to get whatever he could get. I think sometimes that that's what we have to be careful of that we don't do when we come in here. Just to come in and say, 'This is great. I am going to partake and then I'll start over and everything will be fine.' We really need to come here repentant and humble recognizing what Christ did for us. Now back to where I started. God doesn't punish us when we don't partake worthily. He loves us and His soul goes out to us, so it isn't that He punishes us but we take back upon ourselves all those things He took for us when we forget or refuse to repent and to humble ourselves and to obey His commandments. That's just how it is. That's the law. That's the way that justice works and He can't change that. If

He did He would no longer be God. So, He has to let us do that if that's what we choose to do but we're told in these scriptures that when we do that, when we fail to humble ourselves and to repent and when we fail to obey His commandments then we take back upon ourselves all those things that He took off of us, all of our own infirmities, our sins, our evil ways and death. That's what we do. We choose death rather than life. It's not because He punishes us or hates us since we didn't do what He wants. He still loves us but He can only take those things upon Himself when we obey His commandments.

When I thought about this this morning I remembered something that I hadn't remembered for years and years and years. It's just kind of a little experience. It's one of those things that happens and you forget about it. You put it in the back of your memory but it was brought to my mind this morning. This happened when I was very, very young probably not more than four. My father had been in World War II and had been overseas. While he was gone my mother and my brother and I moved with my grandparents to Batavia, Iowa just outside of Fairfield on a farm where my grandfather ran a dairy operation for another man who owned the place. When my father came home from the war that's where he came and began to assist my grandfather on this farm. As I relate this incident to you I want you to understand that it's not like I have a vivid image. I'm telling you what I remember and it may be more of what I feel than an accurate portrayal. What I remember is we were very poor and my father and grandfather worked very hard for very little. It's funny how you can remember some things. This would be like 65 years ago for me now. I can still kind of remember how the house was laid out and where it was in relationship to my grandparent's house, where the sand pile was where we played. My mother, and all of you who are mothers can probably appreciate this, wanted very badly for our home first of all to be a place where God would be welcome but she also wanted it to be kind of cleaned up and neat so that anybody could come there and be welcome. It wasn't much of a house but she saved and scrimped and bought new paint or wallpaper, I don't recall which, for the rooms inside and redid the walls in the room that my brother and I slept in. She



was thrilled at being able to do this for her family.

It was within a few days of the time she repainted the walls that my brother and I somewhere (and I don't remember doing this) found her lipstick and wrote all over the walls. I can remember her coming in and finding that and sitting on the end of our bed as though somebody had knocked the wind out of her and saying, 'Oh my, what have you done.' My father was angry when he came home but my mother was just tearful and very disappointed.

That's what I don't want to happen to any of us when we come back before the Lord. I'm sure it will happen in some sense to all of us. That He will look at us and all that we've done with our lives will be there before Him. Surely He will have to say, 'Oh my, what have you done.' But He knew that would happen before He created us and so He prepared a way that the wall could be cleaned, that our hearts and souls could be cleaned, but we have the right to reject that or to accept it. It is my great hope this morning that each of us will accept what Christ has done and not put that aside nor treat it lightly, not ignore it but determine to obey His commandments and to fulfill the covenants that we have made with Him.

I don't know why I feel compelled to also share this this morning. In a sense when we come here, if we come really prepared and worthy, we're asking God to forgive us of our trespasses. He says in a number of places in the scriptures, probably the most familiar would be the Lord's Prayer that for us to have our trespasses forgiven we must forgive those who trespass against us. So this is one of the commandments and one of the things that we've covenanted to do, to forgive one another. If we do that then we can be forgiven as we are asking to be here this morning. If we do not forgive others, those who have trespassed against us, or I often add who I think have trespassed against us because maybe they really didn't but I just took it that way, but when we come here this morning it's very important that we truly be willing to forgive those who have trespassed against us in order for our Heavenly Father to be able to forgive us also. This is an important part of this whole thing. So I pray this morning that we will forgive one another the trespasses that we think anyhow have been committed against us. That we will lay all of those things upon

the Lord and let Him take them as He has promised to do, that we will let Him do His wonderful work in our lives and that we will not insist on taking our sins and our trespasses back upon ourselves.

There's another scripture in 3 Nephi 8:63. It's a time where Jesus is preaching and He's speaking specifically to His disciples and talking to them about the communion. I read from 3 Nephi 8:60 earlier but I want to drop down to verse 63. He says, and you'd have to read verses 60 to 63 to get what He's really saying here . . . *for behold I know my sheep, and they are numbered.* He knows every one of us. He has died for every one of us personally and individually. He calls to every one of us every day. I hope each one of you will hear His call and come into the fold and stay in the fold where it's safe and secure because of His presence and the price that He has paid for us, as only He could do. He alone is our Savior.



HE IS RISEN!



Elder Gordon Winkler
Mt. Ayr, Iowa
April 8, 2012

As a Call to Worship Seventy Ron Smith read Matthew 28:1-5. *In the end of the Sabbath day, as it began to dawn towards the first day of the week, early in the morning, came Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. And behold, there had been a great earthquake; for two angels of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone*

from the door, and sat upon it. And their countenance was like lightning, and their raiment white as snow; and for fear of them the keepers did shake, and became as though they were dead. And the angels answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; for we know that ye seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay; and go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him; lo, I have told you.

Elder Gordon Winkler read from Mosiah 1:93, 97-109 for a scripture reading. *For behold, I have things to tell you, concerning that which is to come; and the things which I shall tell you, are made known unto me, by an angel from God. For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay, And shall go forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear; and curing all manner of diseases; And he shall cast out devils, or the evil spirits which dwell in the hearts of the children of men. And lo, he shall suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer; except it be unto death; For behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be his anguish for the wickedness and the abominations of his people. And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary. And lo, he cometh unto his own, that salvation might come unto the children of men, even through faith, on his name; And even after all this, they shall consider him a man, and say that he hath a devil, and shall scourge him, and shall crucify him. And he shall rise the third day from the dead; and behold, he standeth to judge the world. And behold, all these things are done, that a righteous judgement might come upon the children of men. For behold, and also his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who have died, not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly*



sinned. But wo, wo unto him who knoweth that he rebelleth against God; for salvation cometh to none such, except it be through repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. And the Lord God hath sent his holy prophets among all the children of men to declare these things to every kindred, nation, and tongue, that thereby whosoever should believe that Christ should come, the same might receive remission of their sins, and rejoice with exceedingly great joy, even as though he had already come among them.

It's great to be here this morning. Of all the other places I could be I can't think of any other place I'd rather be than here with you. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it. We're here to worship God who loves each of us and like the advertising slogan says, 'He cared enough to send his very best.' I think that's from the FTD florist advertisement. John records in the 3rd chapter the 16th verse, For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life. Verse 17 continues For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. Easter is a time to remember Jesus, a time to testify that you believe in the risen Savior. So where do you find the Easter story? Is it a New Testament message contained in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? Or is it an Old Testament prophecy? Isaiah prophesies about this time. Daniel talks about it in Psalms and Zechariah talks about it Chapter 9. Or is it something that was taught on this continent in ancient America. I shared the writings of King Benjamin. Is the Easter Story a triumphant entrance or an agonizing death or a resurrection? Is the Easter Story in the past or is it our future? Is it found in the records of history or is it found present in your life?

Let's begin this morning by looking at Luke 19. As Jesus approached Jerusalem there were several things that He was aware of. He knew the conditions surrounding the people. He knew the conditions of the peoples' hearts. The Jews found themselves under heavy Roman oppression. They were heavily taxed and had restrictions and numerous executions by means of crucifixion. Jesus knew all about these things but He also knew about their hearts. The Jews were in

search of someone. They desired a king, a conqueror, someone to set them free. They had seen the mighty works of this man Jesus. They had witnessed Him restoring sight to the blind. They saw the evidence of Him healing the lame. They saw Him feed the multitude with a little boy's lunch, two fish and a loaf of bread, and there were still leftovers to spare. They heard about Him raising Lazarus from the dead and listened to Him teach with authority. Surely with power and authority like that Jesus was without a doubt the one who would set them free. So Jesus came to Jerusalem and the crowds began to cheer.

The timing was right. He was approaching the Passover Feast which was symbolic of the event where the death angel passed over Egypt and Pharaoh let God's children go. Just maybe now Jesus would somehow lead them from the restraints and cruel treatment they were receiving from the hands of the Roman government. Jesus knew their hearts and He knew their desires. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem the crowds cheered and waved palm branches. They shouted, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.' Cheering, praising, exalting but then something happened. The cheering stopped. Jesus didn't gather any troops. He didn't lead a revolt. He didn't do what they expected. Instead He drove the money changers out of the Temple. He paid tribute to Caesar. He taught that giving out of poverty is worth more than giving out of abundance. He taught that in order to be great, you must be a servant. Jesus did everything the people didn't want Him to do so the cheering stopped.

It's amazing when things go our way. When God does what we want, when Jesus rises to our cause it's easy to cheer, but what about when He doesn't do those things? What happens when you face oppression? What happens when you experience trouble? Too often the cheering comes to a stop. Words of adoration and praise quickly fade when you face life as it really is. Sometimes God does give us what we want but you know that He always gives us what we need. It's just that sometimes we experience a little problem. Often our wants and our desires blur our vision for what we really need.

The same thing happened to the crowds that lined the streets to cheer Jesus. There was something that they didn't see but Jesus did. Let's look at verses 40 to 43 in Luke 19. *And when he was come near;*

he beheld the city, and wept over it; Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side; And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee, and they shall not leave in thee, one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation. Why did the cheering stop? First it was because they didn't recognize Jesus' purpose. Notice what it says at the end of that passage in verse 43, because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation. Can you see the irony? Here was a group of people desiring relief and deliverance from oppression and failing to see that their opportunity for salvation was right in front of them. Look at that phrase again. Jesus was not implying that they didn't know His purpose. These people were looking for the kingdom of God. Jesus had already told them that the kingdom was already in their presence. They were aware of His claim to be the Son of God. They were witnesses to His miracle-working power. Jesus even told them once that they could look at the sky to discern the weather but they could not discern the time in which they were living.

There was a reason they couldn't see His purpose. They couldn't see Jesus' purpose because they had their eyes on their immediate circumstances of Roman oppression instead of on their current condition. People desired deliverance from oppression. Jesus came to deliver them from a bigger problem of sin. In their desire to escape their immediate circumstances to have their brand of peace they missed the fact that they had walked in the very presence of the Prince of Peace. Don't let that be what causes your cheering for him to stop. Don't lose sight of the fact that through any circumstance you are in the presence of the Prince of Peace. John 16:33 says, *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. It's hard to get peace from the world when it's clear that it's full of tribulation. With Jesus you can have peace even in the midst of tribulation.*

Jesus entry into Jerusalem should not only remind us of what was, it should also point us to what shall be. The Book of



Revelation 7:9-17 describes another multitude that gathered with palms in their hands, cheering and Jesus is the center of all that once again. *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen; Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

The first crowd at Jerusalem was a mixture of people which included followers, antagonists, Romans, and government officials. The future group mentioned in Revelation was made up only of believers and angels. The first group focused on the hope of temporal deliverance. The second group will look at eternal and spiritual deliverance. I believe this is the response Jesus had hoped for in Jerusalem, people that were looking for Him for spiritual deliverance. That despite the tribulation, the oppression and hardship of life they would persevere and be made clean from their sins by the blood of Jesus. God is asking us today to focus on our sinful condition not on our circumstances in life. As verse 16 and 17 says we will not hunger or thirst but we will be fed by the Lamb of God and led to a living fountain of water and God will wipe away all the tears from our eyes.

The Easter Story has a number of testimonies. I would like to share a few of those with you about Mary Magdalene, John and Peter as they came to the tomb where Jesus had been laid. Most of my references will be from 20th chapter of John but you can also find this in the 16th chapter of Mark, the 27th chapter of Matthew and the 24th chapter of Luke. Early in the morning a group comprised of Mary Magdalene and several other women approached the tomb where Jesus' body had been laid. There had not been sufficient time after His crucifixion to properly prepare His body for burial so they were taking spices to do that. As they got closer suddenly a thought occurred to them. How were they going to roll away that stone from the door of the sepulcher but in spite of that obstacle they kept going. When they got to the tomb they found a scene that they had not expected. The stone had been rolled away and the entrance to the tomb was open. They entered the tomb where the body had been placed and found that the body was gone. Two angels appeared and proclaimed to them that Jesus had risen. The angels told

"When they got to the tomb they found a scene that they had not expected."

them to go and tell His disciples so that's exactly what they did. When they got where some of the disciples were they caught their breath for a moment and then began to speak excitedly and tell all that they had seen and heard but the men didn't believe them. It sounded like a bunch of gibberish or as Luke 24:10 records it, idle tales. The stone was rolled away, men in bright clothing, Jesus alive? None of it made any sense but the message was intriguing enough to provoke two of Jesus disciples, John and Peter, to go to the tomb to see for themselves so John, Peter and Mary Magdalene headed off to the tomb to see for themselves and figure out this mysterious occurrence and what had happened on that day.

There was an empty tomb. No one doubted that part of the women's story but what they needed to decide for themselves was why it was empty and what that meant. That's the same thing that we must decide. We all agree that there was an empty tomb. We wouldn't be here today if we didn't believe that, but the question is

are we going to respond to the empty tomb? How is it going to affect our life? Three different people came to the tomb that day and each one of them responded in a different way.

The first to arrive at the tomb was John. When John heard the news he jumped up and ran with all his might to the tomb. He wanted to believe. He loved Jesus. He had been in the courtyard when Jesus was interrogated and sentenced to die. He had been at the foot of the cross when Jesus hung there dying. He had willingly taken Jesus mother into his home to care for her. He was so excited about the possibility that Jesus might actually be alive that he ran faster than Peter but when he got to the tomb he didn't go in. He looked inside and saw some of what Mary had said was there but he stayed outside. Maybe he stayed outside because he had to catch his breath after a long run. Maybe he stayed outside because he was afraid. What if Mary was wrong and Jesus body had been moved to another part of the grave. He didn't want to see Jesus all mangled from the torture and the beating, the scourging and the cross. What if he and Peter were inside the tomb and the guards had been hiding and suddenly appeared. It could have been that this was all an elaborate trap set by Roman officials. They had taken Jesus body away to lure the disciples there. Once the disciples arrived they would arrest them and say they had been caught trying to steal Jesus body to make it look like He had risen from the dead.

After a few minutes Peter arrived at the tomb. Peter walked right in without the slightest hesitancy. He saw everything just as Mary had said. The linen that had covered Jesus body was all neatly lying in place. It was just like Jesus' body had dematerialized from inside His clothing. When Peter arrived he entered the tomb. John figured that it must be OK to enter so he went in too. They both saw all the evidence but they had different responses. John saw and believed. The empty grave was enough evidence for him. Jesus really had risen from the dead. John didn't need to see Jesus to know that Jesus was alive. He had heard Jesus prophesy about His coming death and resurrection and now there was an empty tomb. That was enough. There are many people like John here today. We believe because there is an empty tomb, because there is a testimony through the centuries that Jesus is alive.



We don't need to see it to believe. We join with John in being the ones who Jesus spoke of only a few verses later in the same chapter when He said, *Blessed are those who have not seen that have believed.* John's reaction to the empty tomb was belief.

Peter was a bit of a skeptic. Peter was a little slower than John to arrive at the tomb. Maybe the life of a fisherman climbing in and out of a boat had gotten to his knees. I don't know or maybe it was because he was afraid of what he might find. He wasn't afraid of the soldiers so much. He had already whacked one of the soldier's ears when they came to take Jesus away. I think he was afraid because the last time that he looked into Jesus' eyes was just after Peter had denied Christ three times. If Peter saw Jesus he knew he was going to be confronted with his sin and guilt. He wasn't sure that he could handle that. Peter's vision was clouded by the pain that he felt over his past. He wanted Jesus to be alive but he didn't know how he was going to be able to face Him. Maybe there are people like that here today. We want to believe but there's just too much history. We've got too much pain. It's just too difficult to believe that Jesus' resurrection wiped away all that pain. Jesus can forgive and Jesus can heal. Jesus death and resurrection makes our repentance before God accepted.

Peter went in to examine the evidence for himself and saw that the linen was wrapped and the piece of cloth that had been around Jesus head was all folded up. It was enough to prove that something had happened there but it wasn't enough to prove that Jesus was alive. The account of this event in Luke says that Peter was wondering to himself what had happened. He was a skeptic. He needed more evidence. Then Peter did one of the more foolish things of his whole life. In Luke 24:11 it says he left without coming to any conclusion as to what had happened. If Peter had hung around just a little while longer he would have gotten to experience the same miracle that Mary Magdalene experienced. There wasn't enough evidence because he didn't hang around long enough. Too many people don't have enough evidence to place their faith in

Jesus for that simple reason. They don't hang around long enough. They don't read God's word enough. They don't spend enough time around God's people. They don't spend enough time in prayer. Peter walked away from the empty tomb with his heart still broken.

Then there was Mary Magdalene. When Peter and John left, she stayed. The angel asked a good question of Mary. He asked her why she was crying. In the first verse of Luke 24 it says the women including Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while it was still dark. It not only talked about the fact that the sun hadn't come up yet but it also talked to the depth of Mary's heart. Mary had lost that which was more valuable to her than anything. She had lost Jesus. He meant a lot to her. To her Jesus meant release. You remember at the beginning of Mary Magdalene's story when she met Jesus. She was entrapped and enslaved by seven demons the scriptures tell us. Jesus cast those demons out and freed her. She was lost without Jesus. She had given her life to Him. His life had given her life meaning. Now that He was gone she was like a lost puppy not knowing what to do or what to believe. She thought that all was gone so she cried and wept but then the miracle happened. In John 20:18 Mary says *I have seen the Lord.* Seeing the Lord was what Mary wanted more than anything else. Do you want to see the risen Lord? Do you believe that you can see Him? What is your response to the empty tomb?

Are you like John? You see the empty tomb and rejoice because you know Jesus is alive. Are you like Peter? You are confronted by your past sins and guilt and don't know if you can face Him. Jesus arms are wide open. Stick around. See the change that He can bring to your life. Or, are you like Mary? Crying because she thought she lost the most important thing in her life. Jesus is alive and He can be to you all those things that Mary thought she had lost. Release from demons, forgiveness from sin. Wait. Be calm. Believe and you will be able to report as Mary did. I have seen the Lord.

Last Sunday was quite a bit warmer than this Sunday. Last Sunday I came to church wearing a short-sleeved shirt and

Sherman noticed that my arms and hands were all scratched up and asked me what had happened. I shared with him that I had run my two-year old German Shorthair female Jessie in a dog trial on Saturday. The dog trial was set up on about a 30 acre field and there were five birds that were planted out in the field. Sometimes there are carryover birds from a previous brace that hadn't been found. We run two dogs in this field. There is a scoring system on how many birds you find. I was running Jessie in this trial and the other dog was on point along a fence line which was adjacent to the road. The road is a no shooting zone so if the bird flushes and goes across the road it's just a safety. You get to score the bird but the bird goes free.

Well Jessie couldn't handle that bird going free. She ran under the barbed wire fence, through the ditch, across the road, under the barbed wire fence on the other side and down in the ditch looking for that bird. She was distracted and she was determined to go after what she wanted. After a little bit of calling to her she didn't come back so I went through the ditch, across the road and through the other ditch and looked down in the ravine. There was Jessie on point. She had found that bird. I had to go down in the ravine and get her and take her back across the road into the field. You are only allowed 10 minutes out of field before you're disqualified. I went and retrieved her and brought her back into the field and said, 'Let's go.' She ran a big semicircle right back to the ditch, right back across the road and back to where she had found the bird before. I had to repeat the process and go and get her.

Well, what does that have to do with the Easter Story? As I was talking to Sherman and thinking about this story, I drew some parallels to my life. I think the representation of my dog being distracted and being out of bounds and circling back represents my relationship with Jesus. At times I find myself out of bounds and distracted. I am seeking after what I think I need to find and I'm not in the field where there is a greater reward. I am chasing off across the road and into the ditch. In my life Jesus has come to find me. I am reminded of a passage in Isaiah 53:5-6. *But he was wounded for our*

"And the Lord God hath sent his holy prophets among all the children of men to declare these things to every kindred, nation, and tongue, that thereby whosoever should believe that Christ should come, the same might receive remission of their sins, and rejoice with exceedingly great joy, even as though he had already come among them." ~ Mosiah 1:109



May 2012



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday Schedule

DATE	MAY 6th	MAY 13th	MAY 20th	MAY 27th	JUNE 3rd
SPEAKING	Priest Jim Barber	Patriarch Milo Burnet	Elder Michael Jordison	High Priest Rob Rolfe	Seventy Ron Smith
PRESIDING	High Priest Alan Smith	Elder Steven Smith	High Priest Sherman Phipps	Priest Ed Anderson	Elder Gordon Winkler
PIANIST	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Becky Starks	Pat Bolingbroke
SPECIAL MUSIC	Ron & Di Smith	Anan Smith	Lynda Rolfe	Steven Smith	Sue Beck
FAMILY DEVOTIONS	Steve & Elaina Smith	Michael Jordison Family	Norman & Cathy Nelson	Gordon & Linda Winkler	Alan & Valle Smith
GREETERS	Ed & Diane Anderson	Gordon & Linda Winkler	Rod & Debbie Bastow	Bob Rowland Family	Steve & Elaina Smith
CUSTODIANS	Rob & Lynda Rolfe	Bob Rowland Family	Alan & Valle Smith	Ron & Di Smith	Ed & Diane Anderson
SUNDAY EVENING	Norman & Cathy Nelson's	Steven & Elaina Smith's	Bob & Jen Rowlands's	Family Visits	Ron & Di Smith's

Wednesday Prayer Service Schedule

DATE	MAY 2nd	MAY 9th	MAY 16th	MAY 23rd	MAY 30th	JUNE 6th
LOCATION	Ron Smith	Bob Rowland	Gordon Winkler	Steve Smith	Alan Smith	Norman Nelson
PRESIDING	High Priest Sherman Phipps	Elder Michael Jordison	Seventy George Knotts	Priest Jim Barber	Priest Rod Bastow	Elder Alma Hawley



Special Events & Activities

Sunday, May 6th: Priesthood Meeting at 8:30AM - Potluck following Communion service

Sunday, May 20th: Graceland University and Lamoni H.S. Graduations

Sunday, May 20th: Priesthood Meeting at 5:00PM at Bob Rowland's

Wednesday, May 23rd: Day of Fasting & Prayer

Sunday, May 27th: Family Visits instead of the Evening Gathering

Monday, May 28th: Memorial Day

Birthday's this month: (2nd) Bob Rowland

Anniversary's this month: (28th) Ron & Di Smith; **(30th)** Jim & Linda Barber

transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Just as Jessie was responsible for me being scrapped I feel like I'm responsible for laying some of those stripes, cuts and scrapes on Jesus and yet He came back for me . . . and for you.

The Jews were looking for a temporal reward. Jesus offers a greater reward in eternity. So where do you find the Easter Story? Is it in the New Testament message, in an Old Testament prophesy, or in an ancient American prophesy. Is the Easter Story a triumphant entrance of a king or the agonizing death of an abandoned rabbi? Or, do you believe it is the resurrection of your Savior? The Easter Story is all of these things. It's big. It's important because God loves you so much that he sent His son into the world to save YOU.



ANSWER YOUR CALL



Priest Rodney Bastow
Mt. Ayr, Iowa
April 15, 2012

And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep. That the Lord called Samuel; and he answered, Here am I.

And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord ye revealed unto him.

And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down; and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

A couple weeks ago I got a phone call from Ed Anderson. He asked me if I would speak today. I told him we weren't having church the 15th but he said yes we would if I would speak. I have turned Ed down before and knew I couldn't do that again. I told him yes. I learned once a long time ago that you never want to say no because you might not get asked again. I agreed to do this and really didn't know what to say but also knew there was no reason not to. I talked to Debbie after he hung up and she said since this is April 1st maybe this is an April Fool's joke. I kept thinking he was going to call back but he didn't. So here I am. I hope you've been praying for me and for the conference that is taking place. I thank God for this opportunity and I pray that I will say the words that he wants me to say and I will give him all the praise and glory for any blessing we might receive today.

The service we had two weeks ago has been on my mind a lot. It was a blessing that Tanner and his family received and

quite a blessing that we all received. Some of you might not have been here that Sunday. Tanner and his family were spoken to by the power of the Holy Spirit. What he told Tanner, Teegan, and Ryder was that some day they would be able to serve the Lord and there was a work for them to do. He also talked to their parents and told them that they needed to make sure they raised them right. He told Tanner, Teegan, and Ryder that they needed to pick the right friends, do the right things, and refrain from doing the wrong things. That message wasn't just to the Rowland family. It came to all of us. I don't believe they can do what God wants them to do unless all of us support and love them.

That experience reminded me of the bible story I read this morning how Samuel was spoken to by the Lord. Does anyone know that story? Samuel isn't here this morning, Josh do you know it? He shook his head. I learned this story when I was in Aunt Otha's class and she taught us through 1st grade. It was pretty special to me. There was this woman named Hannah. She was married to this guy named Elkanah. She was a good woman and he was a good man and they both worshiped God. They showed kindness to others. There was something that was missing from Hannah's life---do you know what it was---a child. She prayed and waited and hoped but no baby came. Every year she went to worship at God's tabernacle. One year while she was there she promised God that if he would let her have a son she would give the boy to be God's servant forever. The priest was named Eli. He was fairly old. He saw Hannah praying. Do you know what he thought? He thought she was drunk on wine because she talked but he didn't hear any words. He told her to get out of there. Hannah's voice came and she told Eli about her prayer for a child and her promise to God. Eli said, Go in peace, the God of Israel will grant your petition. These words gave Hannah hope. Soon great joy filled Hannah's heart because the Lord remembered her and answered her prayer. She and Elkanah had a boy which they named Samuel. Do you know what Samuel means? It means remembered by God. Would Hannah remember the Lord in her promise to him? Can she give that baby up after she wanted it so much? Hannah stopped going to the tabernacle. Was she going to break her promise? No,

she was just waiting for Samuel to get old enough to live at the tabernacle and help Eli in God's service. When he got old enough she brought him to the tabernacle. God honored Hannah's faithfulness and gave her 3 more sons and 2 daughters.

Now you know the story. I remember hearing this when I was very young. I would think about that at night and think about the Lord calling me by name. Our house can get pretty spooky at night and if you're upstairs and you start hearing noises there would be times when I would pull the covers over me because I didn't want God calling my name. I was scared that might happen to me. That was silly, wasn't it? Think what a blessing that would be—for God to pick out you to be his special messenger.

When I was born I had a special blessing. My mother told me that when I was blessed as a baby that the same thing happened. She and my dad were told that someday I would have a work to do if they raised me right and if I would follow God's commandments. I don't know about you, but that's a pretty big burden to put on a little kid. Every time you want to do something wrong there's your mother reminding you of that promise. It wasn't just my mom. I had a lot of mother's—a big church family. They all kept a close eye on me. Any time I would get out of line they would find a way to love me and remind me of that promise I had been given. Tanner, you have a lot of mothers here too and a lot of people who will be watching and reminding you of that promise a lot. God doesn't always reveal himself like he did two weeks ago. He doesn't always reveal himself like he did to Samuel. Sometimes it's a prompting of that spirit, a feeling that he gives us, but he wants us to respond. He wants us to say—speak, my servant heareth.

When I was just about a teenager I thought I really would like a work to do. I prayed to God and asked if he could use me and find something for me to do. Then I forgot about it. One day a friend asked if he could go to church with me. I don't know that I even encouraged him to. It wasn't until later that I realized that God was answering my prayer. He was giving me something to do. I didn't realize it. I got older and went through this phase, Teegan, when I didn't have a girlfriend. All my friends had girlfriends and were going out on dates, but not me. I had girlfriends before that, but nothing seemed

quite right. I prayed to the Lord and asked him to send me a girlfriend. I asked him to send me someone I could spend the rest of my life with. I keep reminding Debra that she was the answer to that prayer. Sometimes she doesn't think I really meant it, but I did. I am so thankful that the Lord sent her to me.

When my first son was born I hadn't been real involved with the church. I was one of these Easter Sunday goers. I would attend on Easter and sometimes in between. After my son was born I knew that needed to change. We started going on a regular basis. I got more involved in the church. I taught a Sunday school class and was doing other things there. One night while I was sleeping I woke up and it was like someone was telling me that I would be called to the priesthood. I hadn't been thinking about that. In fact, I'd been scared about being called to the priesthood. I never thought I could get up in front of people and talk to them about God. I didn't think there was anything I could say. I didn't realize you don't do this without God's help. If you don't have God's power to do this it doesn't mean anything. Right after that the pastor came over and said he had a priesthood call for me. I went to the conference. When it came time to confirm that call I received the strongest outpouring of the spirit that I have ever received.

Debra grew up in a very good family. She had two brothers and three sisters. It was actually two families—three older and three younger. The life of the three older was entirely different from what it was for the younger ones. Her father was a Methodist and her mother was Catholic. The older three would go with their mother to church and her dad didn't attend. When Debbie and her sister were growing up her dad would drop them off at the Methodist church, go to the gas station to wait, then come back and pick them up when it was over. They weren't really church-goers. It was a good family with very strong values and a very good work ethic. When we got married Debra didn't really see the need to attend church. She went with me and she probably would have joined if I had insisted on it. I didn't want her to join the church unless she really believed in what she was doing. I wanted her to have her own testimony that this was the right church and this was the right place for her to be. It took awhile and it took a lot of love from the church family both at Mount Ayr and at Bevier. Eventually she found

that testimony of Jesus and joined the church. God calls us. He speaks to us. He wants us to serve him. He is asking that we love each other and keep his commandments. He wants us to show others his way and teach them about him. How will we answer?

There are times when Satan tries to keep us from serving the Lord. I strongly felt that last night. Sometimes he puts stumbling blocks in our way. Before my father met my mother the Lord spoke to him. He was in his early 30's. He was going to take his own life. He was all set to do this and a voice spoke to him and said, "This isn't my way. I have a work for you to do." Dad didn't know anything about this church. He didn't know anything about God speaking to us today. Fortunately he stepped down from where he was and waited. Eventually he met my mother. Even though he had this testimony it took awhile before she and the pastor could talk him into joining the church. They had a baptismal service set up. Dad had his whites on and was ready to go into the waters of baptism. The minister said in a rather loud voice, "Oh I see your wife won out after all." My dad turned around and walked away. It took awhile before he got back to that point again and entered the waters of baptism. I don't want to be a stumbling block to someone who is trying to serve the Lord.

I went to a visitation for Mary Ann Lane this week. Her husband Roger passed away a few years ago. Roger and I were called to the priesthood at the same time. They had three children. I watched them grow up but didn't really get to know them. The other night at visitation I didn't really know what to say to them. I didn't know what was right. I need to do a better job of reaching out to other people, especially the young ones. I need to get to know people better. I need to better prepare myself to meet other people's needs. I need to answer that call. Is the Lord speaking to you? Do you have your own testimony of how he is working in your life? Are you helping others to fulfill their call?

I struggled to find a closing scripture. This is from Philippians, 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be afflicted for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



THE GOOD SHEPHERD



H.P. H. Alan Smith

Mt. Ayr, Iowa

(alandval@mac.com)

April 22, 2012

I would like to remind us of the work of the Good Shepherd this morning. Many of you were not able to share in the cantata by the same name that our son Nathan wrote, so I would like to share some of that music with some words about The Good Shepherd for our worship this morning.

I will be sharing some of the references of the Good Shepherd and his sheep from the scriptures and some of the music from the cantata -- because I believe it can bring the message home better than just my words. I hope the Lord will work in your heart this morning to bring a new appreciation for the love of God and these scriptures.

The scriptures are full of references to God's people as sheep and the shepherds that lead us. We have beautiful parables

like David's psalm of the Good Shepherd to remind us of what it means to be led by a Good Shepherd. We have several instances where what it means to be a bad shepherd over the flock is discussed. We have examples where Jesus was recognized as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world for our sin. Jesus used the illustration that his sheep hear his voice. He called on Peter and his disciples to feed his sheep after his resurrection. These are just a few examples from the scripture.

Nathan used many of these words and images in the music of The Shepherd's Voice, the cantata you've heard us talk about. Let's start with the most familiar one of all, I believe.

This is David's Psalm 23 -- the illustration of God being the Shepherd and his people being his sheep. Of course David spoke from experience in sharing this information. He knew what a good Shepherd did.

Nathan chose the children's choir to sing this psalm -- recognize that faith of a child important to us as we look to the Good Shepherd.

I would like you to quote the scripture with me this morning. Psalm 23:1-6:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

We could spend the all morning looking into this scripture -- how his rod and staff comfort us, how he leads in in paths of righteousness to green pastures where we can and still waters where we can drink. And even when he leads us through the valley of the shadow of death, we do not have to fear evil.

I know many of us have found comfort at one time or another in this Psalm and the understanding that Christ is our Shepherd.

I remember being at a reunion in Montana many years ago where we were asked to think of someone to hold up in prayer during the prayer service. My grandmother Tony Nelson came to mind and when we sang a version of this Psalm we came to the words:

*Yea though I walk in Death's dark vale, yet will I feel no ill,
For thou art with me and thy rod and staff me comfort still.*

I remembered visiting with her not too long before when she confided that she was worried about death, focusing on two things she felt she had failed at. One was sharing the gospel with a hired hand on the farm. The other was feeling relief when she had a miscarriage because of the six children already had.

I wrote her a note that day and told her that as I prayed for her, the message of Psalm 23 spoke to me and that she should find comfort that even in the valley of the shadow of death at her age she didn't have to be afraid.

Here's the song as Nathan shares it in the cantata:

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.

He makes me lie in green pastures. He leads me by still waters.

He restores my soul. He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for His own name's sake.

And though I walk through the valley of death,

I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.

Thy rod and staff they comfort me.

You prepare a table, in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil, and my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The Lord is my shepherd forever.

Forever, Forever, Forever. Amen.

The very beginning of the story of Christ's coming to the earth involved shepherds as we know. Nathan's music asks the question, why was it the shepherds who were chosen from all the people who could have come to find him. Who of all the people would be the people who would be the earthly heralds of his birth? The shepherds -- because they would be the one who would be comfortable coming to a stable -- and who would recognize the lamb of God when they saw him.

Listen to the music.

THERE WERE SHEPHERDS

There were kings and princes governing the country with an iron hand.

There were priests and teachers serving at the Lord's command.

There were merchants and soldiers, farmers and fishermen and then, There were shepherds on the hills watching flocks by night.

Humble shepherds heard the angels singing as the sky was filled with light.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria.

Gloria.

There was the virgin Mary radiant with love toward her newborn son.

There was her husband Joseph awed at what the Lord had done.

As they watched by the manger no others came to share their joy,

'Til the shepherds appeared at the stable door. How they wondered. This child was like no other they had ever seen before.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria.

Gloria.

See the shepherds praising God and telling everyone the news.

They have seen Him. All the angels said was true.

As the night turned to morning the heralds of the Savior's birth

Were the shepherd, Honest people who could recognize

In the stable, they had seen the lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria.

Gloria. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria. Gloria. Gloria.

Jesus talked about his people and that he was their Shepherd many times in his ministry. One example is from Luke 3:11-14. *For the Son of Man is come to save that which was lost, and to call sinners to repentance; but these little ones have no need of repentance, and I will save them. How think ye? If a man have a hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if it so be that he find it, verily, I say unto you, he rejoiceth more over that which was lost, than over the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so, it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.*

Jesus told the woman from Canna who asked that her daughter be healed that his ministry was focused on the house of Israel, his sheep. This is the only time I have found recorded that Jesus not immediately heal those who asked -- or even those who did not ask at times. But he relented here as well and healed the daughter.

And he talked about who his sheep were in John 27:24-31, almost at the cost of his life.

Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not; the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. 26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE

My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me.

I call them by name, and they follow me.

Follow the shepherd where ever He leads;

I know that He will take care of me.

I love the good shepherd, The shepherd loves me.

John heard my voice, John heard your voice

And he followed me, And he followed you.

Martha heard my voice, Martha heard your voice,

And she followed me, And she followed you.

Follow the shepherd where ever he leads.

I know that he will take care of me.

I love the good shepherd, the shepherd loves me.

Follow the shepherd where ever he leads.

I know that he will take care of me.

I love the good shepherd, the shepherd loves me.

I love the good shepherd, the shepherd loves me.

My sheep hear my voice. We follow you.

It's the last week of his ministry and Jesus comes into Jerusalem. The multitudes go before him and followed after him crying Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosannah to the highest.

The crowd was quoting Psalm 118 -- crying out for Jesus to deliver them -- the meaning of Hosanna. People crying out for a physical deliver as early words of Psalm promise -- *they compassed me like bees and they are quenched as the fire of thorns.* Chief priests recognized what they were quoting and weren't happy.

Jesus was coming to free them, but not in the way they thought. Listen to Nathan's rendition of what it might have sounded like as the people cried out.

BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna....

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna....

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna...

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Oh if we were silent

The rocks would cry out! The rocks would cry out!

If we were silent
 The rocks would cry out! The rocks
 would cry out!
 All glory, laud, and honor to Thee,
 Redeemer, King
 Blessed is He who comes in the
 name of the Lord!
 To Whom the lips of children made
 sweet hosannahs ring.
 Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord!
 Thou art the King of Israel, Thou
 David's royal Son,
 Who in the Lord's name comest
 Thou King and blessed one.
 Hosannah, Hosannah! Hosannah!
 Blessed is He who comes in the
 name of the Lord!

Jesus prepared a table before his
 disciples -- just as was promised in David's
 Psalm. He spent time with them -- taught
 them that a shepherd did even the most
 lowly of tasks for his sheep -- washing
 their feet -- the job of the servant. And he
 reminded them and us of the cost of the
 Lord's Supper which we continue to share
 in.

**YOU PREPARE A TABLE
 BEFORE ME**

You prepare a table before me.
 I will come and meet you there.
 O may I never forget what it cost
 you to prepare,
 what it cost you to prepare.
 You called your disciples together
 to a quiet upper room.
 How you treasured that hour of
 closeness,
 knowing you would leave them
 soon.

What it cost you to prepare.
 Again you invite me to join you and
 to share the bread and wine.
 I remember your blood and your
 body, precious gifts of love divine.
 From the tree that stood in Eden to
 the cross on Calvary,
 You carry your plan to perfection,
 You prepare a place for me.
 You prepare a table before me. I
 will come and meet you there.
 Oh may I never forget what it cost
 you to prepare,
 What it cost you to prepare.

Psalm 118 had more relevance than
 just what the crowds shouted as Jesus
 came to Jerusalem. It was the last of the
 praise hymns that was sung as part of the
 passover meal that Jesus was sharing with
 his disciples -- and giving it new
 significance.
 The disciples sang from David's prophecy
 of what was about to happen.

*I shall not die but live and declare the
 works of the Lord.*

*The stone which the builders refused
 has become the head stone of the corner.
 This is the Lord's doing, it is marvellous in
 our eyes.*

*O give thanks unto the Lord for his
 mercy endureth forever.*

And my favorite:

*This is the day that the Lord has made,
 let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

The Good Shepherd was telling his
 sheep that even going to face what would
 look like the darkest time in their life, they
 should go singing let us rejoice and be glad
 in it. Matthew bear record that they sang
 the hymn before going out to the Mount of
 Olives. And there the Shepherd suffered
 giving us the gift of his great love as he

As he kneels all alone in the
 darkness, knowing He will be
 betrayed.
 What grief, what faith,
 What sorrow, what grace,
 What humility, what resolve,
 What love, what love.
 Who can know the heart of the
 shepherd who will lay down his life
 for his sheep?
 All the crowds that once cheered
 Him have scattered and his
 disciples are asleep.
 What mercy, what loss,
 What compassion, what cost,
 What agony, what desire,
 What love, what love.
 'Tis midnight and on olive's brow
 The star is dimmed that lately
 shown.
 'Tis midnight in the garden now.
 The suffering Savior prays alone.
 What love, what love.

And then their is Jesus teaching telling
 his disciples that when he lays down his
 life it is his doing and that he will take it
 up again in John 10:1-18

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that
 entereth not by the door into the sheepfold,
 but climbeth up some other way, the same
 is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth
 in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.
 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep
 hear his voice; and he calleth his own
 sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And
 when he putteth forth his own sheep, he
 goeth before them, and the sheep follow
 him; for they know his voice. And a
 stranger will they not follow, but will flee
 from him; for they know not the voice of
 strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto
 them; but they understood not what things*

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever." ~ Psalm 118:1

You blessed bread and wine before
 them.
 And you bade them drink and eat.
 You asked them to always
 remember.
 Then you knelt and washed their
 feet.
 You prepare a table before me.
 I will come and meet you there.
 Oh may I never forget what it cost
 you to prepare,

prepared to the physical pain that was
 coming at crucifixion.

I don't know how to better share this
 experience than in Nathan's music of
 "What Love."

WHAT LOVE

Who can know the mind of the
 Savior as he comes to the garden
 to pray?

*they were which he spake unto them. Then
 said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I
 say unto you, I am the door of the
 sheepfold. All that ever came before me
 who testified not of me are thieves and
 robbers; but the sheep did not hear them. I
 am the door; by me if any man enter in, he
 shall be saved, and shall go in and out,
 and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but
 for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I
 am come that they might have life, and that
 they might have it more abundantly. I am*

the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. And the shepherd is not as a hireling, whose own the sheep are not, who seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth the sheep and scattereth them. For I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. But he who is a hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIVES HIS LIFE

The Good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep.

The Good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep,

The hired man runs away when the wolf appears

And the sheep are caught and the flock is scattered.

The Good Shepherd gives His life, His life for His sheep.

Scarcely for a righteous man will one die,

And peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

But in this God commendeth His love unto us

That while we were yet sinners, While we were sinners

Christ died for us.

The Good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep,

The Good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep, for his sheep.

The Good Shepherd gives His life, His life for His sheep, for His sheep.

Just as he promised -- Jesus took up his life again -- and what joy coming to that realization must have been for his disciples. Even the doubting where given

**A MARB Hello
to Aaron,
Melissa &
Joshua
Ballantyne.**

the proof they needed that this indeed was their Savior, returned by resurrection from the dead. He had conquered sin and death and would remain their shepherd.

LIFT YOUR GLAD VOICES

He will swallow up death in victory;
And the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces;

And the rebuke of his people shall He take away from off all the earth:

For the Lord hath spoken it.

Hallelujah!

Lift your glad voices in triumph on high,

For Jesus hath risen and man cannot die.

Vain were the terrors that gathered around Him

And short the dominion of death and the grave;

He burst from the fetters of darkness that bound Him

Resplendent in glory to live and to save!

Loud was the chorus of angels on high.

The Savior hath risen and man shall not die.

Lo this is our God. We have waited for Him and He will save us:

This is the Lord.

We have waited for Him, we will be glad,

Be glad and rejoice in His salvation.
Glory to God in full anthems of joy;
He will swallow up death in victory!
The being He gave us death cannot destroy;

Lo, this is our God.

Sad were the life we must part with tomorrow

If tears were our birth-right and death were our end;

But Jesus hath cheered the dark valley of sorrow,

We've waited for Him, He will save us!

We'll rise from the dead and immortal ascend.

Rejoice and be glad.

Lift then your voices in triumph on high,

For Jesus hath risen and man shall not die.

Rejoice and be glad. Let you praise fill the sky!

The Savior has risen, the Savior has risen,

He is risen, Hallelujah!

You remember the story of Peter -- so strong and so sure that he would not be one to betray his friend -- but who in fear for his life denied him three times the very same night. I'm sure most of us know what it feels like to not live up to our promises -- Jesus asks him to repent three times-- just as he sinned -- to make sure the message gets through. And its a message to his sheep today.

Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, a hundred and fifty and three; and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus showed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee.

He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus said unto him, Feed my sheep. John 21: 11-17

FEED MY SHEEP

"Peter, do you love me? Do you love me more than these?"

Jesus asked His friend as they sat by the fire.

"Oh yes, my Lord, I love Thee," Peter answered hastily.

Jesus explained what true love requires.

"Feed my lambs. Feed my lambs. If ye love me, feed my lambs."

"Peter do you love me?" Jesus asked his friend once more.

Peter's heart was grieved. What response could he give?

"Oh yes, my Lord, I love Thee," Peter answered as before.

Jesus explained how true love is lived.

"Feed my sheep. Feed my sheep. If ye love me, feed my sheep."

"Do you love me?" the Savior asks again.

"Yes, Lord we love Thee, our master and our friend."

The call echoes forth and fills all the earth.

"All who love the Shepherd, now join His holy work!"

"Feed my sheep. Feed my sheep. If ye love me, feed my sheep."

"Feed my lambs, Feed my lambs, If ye love me, feed my lambs."

"Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep. Feed my sheep."

Jesus told us here in America that he had other sheep as well that he went to. *And verily, verily, I say unto you, that I have other sheep, which are not of this land; neither of any parts of that land round about, whither I have been to minister. For they of whom I speak, are they who have not as yet heard my voice; neither have I at any time manifested myself unto them. But I have received a commandment of the*

Father, that I shall go unto them, and that they shall hear my voice, and shall be numbered among my sheep, that there may be one fold, and one shepherd; therefore I go to shew myself unto them. And I command you that ye shall write these sayings, after I am gone, that if it so be that my people at Jerusalem, they who have seen me, and been with me in my ministry, do not ask the Father in my name, that they may receive a knowledge of you by the Holy Ghost, and also of the other tribes whom they know not of, That these sayings which ye shall write, shall be kept, and shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that through the fullness of the Gentiles, the remnant of their seed who shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth, because of their unbelief, may be brought in, or may be brought to a knowledge of me, their Redeemer. And then will I gather them in from the four quarters of the earth; and then will I fulfill the covenant which the Father hath made unto all the people of the house of Israel. 3 Nephi 7:24-29

The call today is still to feed his sheep -- and know he is still our shepherd. We find these words in Doctrine and Covenants 50:8e-g:

Fear not, little children, for you are mine, and I have overcome the world, and you are of them that my Father hath given me; and none of them that my Father hath given me shall be lost; and the Father and I are one; I am in the Father and the Father in me; and inasmuch as ye have received me, ye are in me, and I in you; wherefore I am in your midst; and I am the good Shepherd (and the stone of Israel: he that buildeth upon this rock shall never fall), and the day cometh that you shall hear my voice and see me, and know that I am. Watch, therefore, that ye may be ready. Even so. Amen.

May we be sheep that know our Master's voice and shepherds who bring the kind of servant ministry to his people that he is calling us to bring. Feed my lambs, feed my sheep, feed my sheep is his all to us today as it was 2,000 years ago.

The Shepherd's Voice

Words and music by Nathan Smith

Copyright 2011

Used with permission



SHARING SERVICE

April 29, 2012

The service of song in the house of the Lord with humility and unity of Spirit in them that sing and them that hear is blessed, and acceptable with God; but song with grievous sadness in them that sing and bitterness of spirit in them that hear is not pleasing to God. Therefore, in all the congregations of the people of God, let all strife and contention concerning song service cease; and that the worship in the house of the Lord may be complete and wholly acceptable, let them who shall be moved thereto by a desire and the gift to sing take upon them the burden and care of the service, and use therein instruments of music of the reed and of the string, or instruments of brass in congregations that are large, and as wisdom and choice may direct. Let the young men and the maidens cultivate the gifts of music and of song; let not the middle-aged and the old forget the gladness of their youth and let them aid and assist so far as their cares will permit; and remember that Saints should be cheerful in their warfare that they may be joyous in their triumph. Nevertheless, let the organ and the stringed instrument, and the instrument of brass be silent when the Saints assemble for prayer and testimony, that the feelings of the tender and sad may not be intruded upon. To facilitate unity in the song service of the church those to whom the work of providing a book of song has been intrusted may hasten their work in its time.

Elder Michael Jordison presided over the Sunday sharing service.

My sharing with you this morning was not going to be in song, but in a collection of hymns and stories that are meaningful to the restoration. We may not get to all of them because we have such a long list of others sharing.

But I do want to share a little of the story about this first hymn that we are

going to sing that we do not find in our hymnal. The author, Vida E. Smith, was born in 1865 in Illinois to Alexander Hale and Elizabeth K. Smith. She later married Heman C. Smith who later became the RLDS church historian for a time, and lived in various places including California, Independence and Lamoni. While at Lamoni she served as Dean of Women at Graceland College from 1920 to 1925. Of this hymn that's being passed out to you she wrote, 'This little song connects me with happy and beloved people and occasions. Looking back I see the little shady quiet town of Lamoni in its summer setting. Immediately memory locates me in the home of my cousin Audentia Anderson.'

'For days following days we had been together thus working on the new songbook for the young of the church. Those were lovely hours we spent thus collecting and collating music and words always opening each session with prayer and departing with a spirit of melody and praise in the soul.' She went on to share that during the reading of Doctrine and Covenants 119:6, which I read to you, the songbook committee requested that she and Audentia come up with a song for service in accordance with this scripture. Humbled at the request the two assented to the work and she continued in her writing, 'Then one day at the piano the first stanza came and the rest faster than I could pencil them. I had absolute faith in the musical accompaniment that would be produced by Audentia and how easy it was to let loose my words to the kind hearts with whom I had been associated with in this work. The very thought of these friends had been stimulating as I had approached my task in the quiet hours when the household was still in my home.'

The congregation then sang:
One day when fell the Spirit's whisper,
And touched with zeal the waiting throng,
Inspiring hope, it courage gave them
To cultivate the gift of song.
With skillful hands and sweeter voices,
The Master called for service glad;
He knew one heart that so rejoices
Brings good surpassing many sad.

Sweet fell the call for Zion's children
What comfort in this last command
Who bear the burden of this service,
Who sing, should seek to understand.
Young men with voices strong yet tender,

And maids in clear sweet tones of youth,
Make this great gift a joy and blessing,
Give wings of song to words of truth.

To some, grown old with cares hard laden,
The message gleamed with sweeter truth,
They caught the wave of sweet rejoicing,
And sang with gladness of youth.
Now harp and voice and sweet-toned organ
The best loved songs in worship raise,
That ours be counted joyful triumph,
The Spirit's gift, blest gift of praise.

The congregation then shared their talents beginning with Anan Smith and several of the young people who sang, 'Happy. Happy is the People whose God is the Lord...' They were followed by Steve Smith who sang a song he had written. Becky Starks played a song on the piano that she had composed, and Alan Smith then sang 'Amazing Grace' accompanied by Ron Smith on the guitar.

Diane Anderson played the hymn 'All Glory, Laud and Honor' on her flute with recorded background accompaniment. Yvonne Galusha shared a song with us to the tune of 'Ave Maria.' Cheryl Phipps read a story, 'God's Faithfulness' from Chicken Soup for the Soul, Count Your Blessings. Rob Rolfe sang a song based on the 7th chapter of the Gospel of Luke. Gable and Jazmyn Galusha played a duet on their violins, 'Touch Me, Lord, with Thy Spirit Eternal' Ron and Di Smith sang a combination of the songs, 'Praise the Lord Ye Heavens Adore Him' and 'Jesus, Jesus, Jesus There's Just Something About That Name' accompanied by the guitar. Sue Beck sang the song, 'Let Us Pray for One Another.'

To end the congregation's participation Diane Anderson shared a short about a donkey and how he shook off the dirt being piled on him by farmers while he was stuck in a well. They were trying to kill him but after continuing to shake off the dirt that fell on his back, he ended up walking out of the well. The moral of the story was that when we have rough times we should shake them off and climb on out.

Our Presider then shared, 'This morning things didn't quite happen the way that I had anticipated. We had a few hiccups here and there but the important thing is that we kept going, just as the donkey did in the story that Diane shared with us. I want to say how much I appreciate each one of you. I'm glad that

you're here and that I'm here and glad to see some new faces and some older (familiar) ones. It was my intention to share some experiences of some of the Saints in the church both in the early church and within the reorganization and the passion and the zeal that they had for the kingdom and for the light of the gospel that had come to them. For some who were in darkness and were brought into the light, and for others who were born into the church. One of these prominent members of the early church was William Wines Phelps. In closing I would like to relay a small bit of the story behind one of the most famous hymns that he wrote and which we will sing shortly,

In the first months of 1836 as the Kirtland Temple was being finished for its planned dedication service, W.W. Phelps found himself arriving early to church with alongside Joseph Smith, Jr. William, born in 1792, was at one time a candidate for Lieutenant Governor in the State of New York. He was brought to the gospel partly through the testimony of Sidney Rigdon and partly through the testimony of the Book of Mormon itself. When finally convinced of the truth of the latter day work William moved with his family to Ohio and sought the Lord's will through the young prophet Joseph. As a result he was instructed by the Lord is what has become Doctrine and Covenants Section 55; to be baptized unto repentance and to assist in the work of the church through any various means that the Lord would call him.

W.W. Phelps became a member of the First Presidency and in this capacity found himself arriving early that cold Sunday morning with Joseph. After a memorable service Brother Sidney Rigdon directed that each of the Twelve would have an opportunity to speak in turn to the assembly. Joseph Smith remembered that event saying that, 'the Lord poured out His Spirit upon us and the congregation was soon overwhelmed and in tears and some of our hearts were too full for utterance. The gifts of tongues came on us also like the rushing of the mighty wind and my soul was filled with the glory of God.' It was in this setting that William took an envelope from his pocket and penned the words so familiar on its back. 'The Spirit of God like a fire is burning. The latter-day glory begins to come forth. The visions and blessings of old are returning. The angels are coming to visit the earth.'

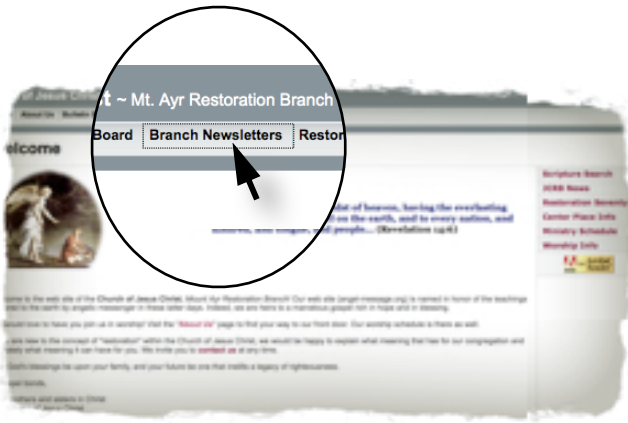


**Church of Jesus Christ
Mount Ayr Restoration Branch**

c/o Cheryl Phipps
15581 270th St
Lamoni, IA 50140

Have you misplaced your MARB Newsletter?
Want to read it online or search past issues?
Visit the Mount Ayr Restoration Branch website at:

www.angel-message.org



CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MT AYR RESTORATION BRANCH

MAY 2012

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:6-7)

...Continued from page 17

He took those words and passed them to the choir director at the time and they were put to music and sung at the dedication of the Kirtland Temple later in March.

In our hymnal we have three verses to this song but there are actually nine or ten depending on which version you look at. I'm going to share two of the verses that we don't have in our hymnal.

*Old Israel that fled from the world for his freedom
Must come with the cloud and the pillar remain.
As Moses and Aaron and Joshua led him
And feed him on manna from heaven again.*

How blessed the day wen the lamb and the lion

*Shall lie down together without any ire;
And Ephraim be crowned with his blessings in Zion,
As Jesus descends with his chariots of fire!*

The congregation then closed the service with the singing of this hymn.



OFFICERS

PASTOR/PRESIDING ELDER:
High Priest Sherman Phipps
High Priest H. Alan Smith (Counselor)
Elder Gordon Winkler (Counselor)

BISHOP'S AGENT
Elder Gordon Winkler
Cheryl Phipps (Stewardship Coord.)

HOME MINISTRY
Priest Rodney Bastow
Priest Ed Anderson

SECRETARY/RECORDER
Julia Jordison

FELLOWSHIP COORDINATOR
Valle Smith

WORSHIP COORDINATOR
Jennifer Rowland

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Lynda Rolfe

EVANGELISM COORDINATOR
Michael Jordison

YOUTH LEADERS
Jennifer Rowland & JulieAnn Smith

SERVICE PROJECTS
Kent Clisby

HISTORIAN
Linda Winkler

NEWSLETTER
Michael Jordison (Editor)
Cheryl Phipps (Circulation)
H. Alan Smith (Publication)

For content contributions please contact *Michael Jordison* at jordi@grm.net.

For subscriptions please contact *Cheryl Phipps* at gmagpap.phipps@gmail.com.