# *Third Street Church*

# *Conference Call-Midweek Prayer and Bible Study*

# *Wednesday, November 18, 2020 - 6pm*

**Introductions/ Welcome - Pastor Reid**

**Opening Prayer: Deacon Jeraline Truesdale**

**Opening Song: Elder Lowery Music Ministry**

**The Word: John 11:1-16 (NRV) New International Version (Teretha Jackson reads)**

### The Death of Lazarus

**11**Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2**(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) **3**So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”**4**When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” **5**Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6**So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, **7**and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”**8**“But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”**9**Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. **10**It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”**11**After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”**12**His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” **13**Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.**14**So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, **15**and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”**16**Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

**Reflection- Bonnie Massey Reads**

Jesus receives a plea for desperate help and responds by delay. During this time in biblical history much was said about death and burial practices. Many superstitious beliefs stated that the soul hovers around for three days. Jesus waits four days for the right moment to perform the miracle. Jesus’ timing is regulated by God’s will, and not by the request of friends or even family. Jesus waited to leave until Lazarus had died. He arrived on the fourth day after the death. Jesus is accomplishing two things: (1) Jesus is powerfully demonstrating himself to be the resurrection and the life(John11:25) and (2) Jesus is powerfully establishing the faith of his disciples’ (John 11:15), and some Jews , those looking at this resurrection and also the family in Bethany. The delay is for the good of all concerned, including Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Let us remember that a delay by God to our prayers in not a denial that God will answer prayer. We should pray not my will but what is God’s will? *Thou will be done in heaven and on earth..* Matthew 6:10.

**Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion**

*Please feel free to join in during the study we all learn and are studying God’s Word together. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as people of faith.*

1. What verse(s) in these passages stand out to you or have special meaning to you? Why?
2. Where in the book of John do you find the story of this **Mary(of Bethany)** pouring perfume on the Lord?
3. These passages are rooted in the love Jesus had for this family, how do you know this from reading this passage?
4. Did the sisters ask Jesus to heal their brother?
5. In this scripture how is mourning/grief addressed?
6. What did Jesus say about daylight? What verse and what do you think this verse means?
7. Why do you feel Jesus delayed going to the grave of Lazarus?v.14
8. What other scriptures refer to(Thomas) Didymus? What was he doing or saying in those scriptures?

**Apply God’s Word to your Life:**

Even though Jesus does not always act on our timing, Jesus is always on time. We find assurance in this text that we can trust Jesus. We can believe in our times of sufferings and pain that God hears our cries. God is an on time God!

**What Inspires you these days?**

It may seem like there is little today to inspire us. Hold on to inspiration find it in the midst of troubling times. Where do you find inspiration and hope these days? Is it a song, hymn, scripture or special reading? How has it helped inspire you? If you feel led, please share with the group.

﻿**Faith in Action:**. The physical church doors are closed but we are the distance church wherever we are. Give, share, pray, reach out ***We are the Church.*** Reaching out , text, call, email, US mail or virtual, that is our mission as the Body of Christ.

***Third Street. Church Homecoming Pledge*** is *$132.00* per person or any amount you can give. This is one dollar for each year since the church was established. Please donate before  **Friday, Nov. 20.**

Our denomination upcoming Presbyterian Church Wide offering ***Christmas Joy* Offering Nov. 29-Dec. 20. 2020**. More information: Here is the link, click on offerings: [https://specialofferings.pcusa.org](about:blank)

**Thank you to everyone for any donations and gifts to keep this ministry supported financially.**

**Evening Prayer- Pastor Reid**

**Please lift people who suffer in so many ways, the pandemic, loss of wages and systemic racial injustice, pray for those impacted by floods, fires and other natural disasters, frontline workers during this time of intercessory prayer. You may want to list prayer request in your prayer journal and pray continue to pray.** *Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. James 5:16*

**Closing Song: Elder Lowery Music Ministry**

**Words of Sending:**

L: God be with each of you until we come together again!!

**P: In Jesus’ Name**

**All: Amen!**

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week! We will meet via phone conference **Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 6pm**.

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid