# Third Street Presbyterian Church (USA)

# Midweek Prayer and Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 17, 2021 - 6pm**

**Welcome /Introductions: Pastor Reid**

**Opening Prayer: Elder Charlie Stroman,III**

**Opening Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**The Word** **Matthew 10:16-23- Read by Rod Costner**

### Coming Persecutions

**16**“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. **17**Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; **18**and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. **19**When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; **20**for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. **21**Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; **22**and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **23**When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

 **REFLECTION: Read by Lois Camp**

Why does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, send defenseless sheep out into this ungodly world among the wolves? Perhaps it is because that is where Christ can use them best in their service in the world. They will have to trust The Good Shepherd as they go. The Shepherd knows what he is doing and the purpose he has for each sheep. John 10 tells us that Jesus will not lose any of His sheep

That’s essentially the approach Jesus instructs for his disciples. In Matthew chapter ten Jesus is sending out his twelve disciples to teach, preach, heal and perform miracles. But along with preparing them for the kind of work they will be doing among the lost sheep of Israel, Jesus wants them to be realistic about how people will react to their mission. Jesus calls us to do the mission service that comes with being a Christian. So we take the lead of Christ to heart today. Jesus wants you and me to combine being wise with trusting willingness to live the mission of our Christian faith.

 Being a Christian and living as a disciple in this world can leave us open to danger. Since being a sheep among wolves is the reality, Jesus wants us to have the understanding that only he can give. He says: “Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16) Serpents are used as a symbol of cunning and sly. Exercise wisdom and caution in your walk of faith. Doves are used as a symbol as patience, faith and humbleness. So while we are exposed to danger for the sake of the gospel ,we must continue to proclaim and profess that Jesus is Lord of all.

**Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion:**

Please feel free to join in during the study discussion. We all learn and are studying God’s Word together. If you have questions or want to share, hit the **\* asterisk**  on your phone. This way the moderator will know you have comments. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as people of faith. We all are learning from God’s Word daily.

1. Who is Jesus speaking to in these passages?
2. How does Acts 20:29 relate to Matthew10:16? What warning do we see in v. 17-18? Does this still happen today in the world?
3. In your thoughts, what is the meaning of verses 19-20?
4. John 15:18 says” if the world hates you, know that it hated me before it hated you”. How does this verse relate to the passages in today’s study?
5. What is one other mission that Jesus gives in Matthew 10:14? (This verse is not in our reading for tonight but relates to the Mission of the Twelve.)
6. **Deeper study**: Select one verse in Matthew 10:24-40. Share this verse in study tonight. What meaning does it have for you in your life today? Those who would like to share are welcome to do so.

**Apply God’s Word to your Life:**

We are disciples of Jesus Christ, use this study from Matthew 10 tonight as your guide in your Christian walk . The words of God are good for us as we journey on our call to grow in faith each day.

**Sharing Inspiration and Mission Giving:**

What is inspiring you in these times of the new normal way of life? God is still doing a great work in all of us. If you desire to do so, share briefly with the study group tonight. Pastor will ask that you use the( \* asterisk) button on your phone to signal you want to share. Share your name and inspiration .

***One Great Hour of Sharing Offering –* March 3- April 4, 2021**-For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need around the world. Please mail or drop off at the church in the mail slot.

**Evening Prayer:**

#### Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

We lift up prayer requests at this time, we lift up our joys and concerns before the Lord.

**Closing Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**Words of Sending: - Pastor Reid-** At the close of the day when we kneel down to pray we ask the Lord to keep us strong and forgive for all our wrong…..Go in peace knowing God’s protection surrounds you, always!

**Upcoming Dates for Joining Third Street Church in Worship(please invite friends and family)**

**-March 28** is Palm Sunday. The Deacon’s ministry has ordered Palms for each household. We will get information out as to how the Palms will be given out soon.

-We will have Maundy Thursday Service on **April 1, at 6pm**- with Communion. Information about this Service is given below. This

Information is on the Presbyterian Mission Agency website as well.

-We will have Resurrection Sunday Worship/ First Sunday on **April 4 at 9:30**

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week! Our Next Bible Study will be **April 7 at 6pm**

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid

Pastor Reid

**Maundy Thursday- April 1 at 6:00PM- via phone conference call**

 Maundy Thursday begins the Three Days (or Triduum), remembering the new commandment that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. We also celebrate the Lord’s Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.

Historically, this was the traditional day in which those who had undergone a period of public penance (repenting of sin) under church discipline would be restored to full communion. (excerpt from Presbyterian Mission Agency- PCUSA)