

Protestant Fellowship Community Newsletter

February 2021

“But what about you?” Jesus asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”, Luke 9:20

What Do You Believe?

In *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* Indiana Jones and his father have made it to Petra (in Jordan) where the Holy Grail is located and has been guarded by a Crusader knight. An American businessman, Walter Donovan, and his team, working in league with the Nazis, arrived at the site first. They need Indiana to help them navigate the clues to get to the Grail. Donovan has his pistol on Indy’s group and tells him threateningly

“It’s time to ask yourself what do you believe.”

Our circumstances are different from those of Indy; the context of our lives is different. There may be a closer correlation with the lives and circumstances of the early Christians. But to some degree the same question still exists.

The early Christians and the church were not welcomed in society. Belief in a single God were much different from the polytheistic practices in the Roman and Greek worlds. The appeal of Christianity across societal classes and among peoples from different countries and regions was not normal.

Christianity was not included in the acceptable religious choices that a first or second century person in the Roman-Greco world.

Today the various denominations of the Church have sets of creeds and confessions. Most of them include the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed. While the Nicene Creed seems to be the first of those two that was formally written down, there are

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Weekly Worship Services for February 2021
each Sunday at 2:00 pm from the chapel **
via live Broadcast on ACTV channel 976 / 980 (HD)

January 31	Hymn Sing Worship Service: Experience the Word of God through favorite hymns Organist: Bud Williams; Pianist: Betty Kingston	
February 7	Rev. Susan Sciarratta, Chaplin – Counselor Interfaith Ministry Organist: Jane Smith; Pianist: Joan Baranyi	
February 14	Rev. Pat Penecale, Pastor, Rockpoint Church, Doylestown, PA Organist: Bud Williams; Pianist: Betty Kingston	
February 21	Rev. Brad Leight, Pastor, St. John's United Methodist Church, Ivyland, PA Organist: Joan Kirk; Pianist: Betty Kingston	
February 28	Rev. Joshua Plohocky, Bucks County Seventh Day Adventist Church, Warminster, PA Organist: Jane Smith; Pianist: Joan Baranyi	

**** Worship services are 'broadcast' only.**
Please do not attend in person until restrictions are fully lifted.

Ash Wednesday:

While there will not be an Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service this year, provisions will be made for imposition of ashes. Check the Cubby Chronicle for details. Contact Pastoral Ministries at (215) 443-3831 or James.Sutton@erickson.com.



Quiet Reflections and Prayers:

The Chapel at Ann's Choice is open daily from 8:00am – 2:00pm.

To receive this newsletter by E-Mail:

Please send an email to Rev. Jim Sutton at James.Sutton@erickson.com. Make sure to include your preferred email address for receipt of this newsletter.

Rose Gardens and Chestnut Pointe:

Large group activities are suspended until further notice. Pastoral Visits and Home Communion are still available. Contact Pastoral Ministries at (215) 443-3831.

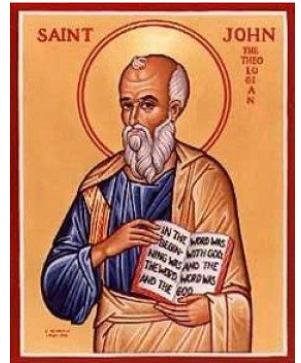
Virtual “Zoom” Bible Study:

Weekly Bible study continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am via Zoom. Mary Lee Friesz is leading the study on the Gospel of John.

Contact Mary Lee at (215) 394-5771, cubby ML-216 or mlFriesz@verizon.net for more information.

Contact Fred Keill at (kfsder@verizon.net, (215) 442-5650, or leave a note in his cubby at MT-418 in Keystone) to receive the connection information for using Zoom on your laptop, computer or smartphone, or for using Zoom in audio mode only by telephone.

In March, the study of *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis will resume.



Supporting Our Ministry and Mission:

During this time where Chapel services are broadcast, you can still help support the mission projects and ministries of the Protestant Fellowship. Donations may be enclosed in an envelope addressed to Rev. Sutton and taken to any clubhouse front desk. Donations by check are preferred; please make the check payable to “Ann’s Choice, Inc. – Protestant Fund”. On the memo line, please write “Donation.”

Protestant Fellowship Council

*Our purpose is to bring glory to God in all that we pursue
in and through the Protestant Faith Community*

Our Mission is to

- Provide meaningful worship opportunities;
- Provide opportunities for Bible study;
- Provide Christian fellowship and prayer;
- Help fellow residents with spiritual needs; and
- Participate with other faith groups in ecumenical and inter-faith services.

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variations on the Apostles' Creed which precede the Nicene Creed.

The Old Roman Creed, was an earlier and shorter version of the Apostles' Creed. It was based on the 2nd-century Rule of Faith and the interrogatory declaration of faith for those receiving Baptism (3rd century or earlier). There was a series of questions and responses. By the 4th century this form of a creed was trinitarian just about everywhere; it followed Matthew 28:19 ("baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"), which is part of the Great Commission of the Church.

There are warnings in the New Testament Epistles to Timothy and in 2 Peter about false teachers. One of the movements that the early Church had to confront was that of the Gnostics. While there were many sects and variations to their beliefs, two of the main premises were 1) the requirement to learn secret knowledge in order to be saved and 2) the notion that Jesus did not die a physical, human death on the cross. Instead, his physical form was replaced by a spirit; or, using Star Trek terminology, his physical form was replaced by a hologram. Since these were key issues of the time, the question-and-answer format of the Roman Creed was developed to counter false teachings; and it addressed the issue of the physical and human, yet divine, nature of Jesus.

As the Apostles' Creed was formalized in the following centuries, the belief that Jesus was both human and divine, and that He died a human death continued to be emphasized. Other issues about the nature of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit arose. In 325 the Council of Nicea (present day Iznik, Turkey) adopted the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed was adopted to resolve a theological dispute about the divine nature of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are used by many Protestant denominations as part of some worship services. These creeds are a summary of what we believe even though we may not understand all of the language.

An insert is provided to guide you on a scriptural journey with daily readings which explore some aspects of the Apostles' Creed.