

WE TELL OUR STORIES



LET'S MAKE LEMONADE!

By Claud Riddles

In 1915, Elbert Hubbard coined the phrase “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade”. This optimistic phrase has been used and published by many people. Perhaps you have said this phrase when faced with adversity or a misfortune? Four years ago, I found myself facing a dilemma while leading a Covenant Bible Study. Earlier in March that year, one of the members had been notified that he was no longer needed in his job. At the end of the month, I received similar news. In both cases, the people participating in that study rallied around us, praying that God would open new opportunities. In my case, I became more involved with a variety of Bible studies, small groups, and volunteer service experiences at St. Luke's. One of the studies was titled *At the Crossroads: Leadership Lessons for the Second Half of Life*. This study guided participants through a reflection process to discover their purpose, passion, and mission for retirement, very similar to the process that high school students go through when making their career choices.

Another wonderful experience has been participating in the Scripture+Shared studies. I am part of a Tuesday morning group that has been meeting a couple of years and leveled out with about 5-7 participants. Last Fall, one of the members asked that we pray for our group to expand. We had our first session this week for the current study and sermon series *The Book of Glory*, focusing on John, Chapters 13-21. During that gathering, we met five new friends who had joined us, and we felt so blessed.

I found another phrase about lemons that applies: “When life gives you lemons... God can use them to change lives”. During 2019, St. Luke's is encouraging us to express our gratitude by being more intentional in letting others know how much we appreciate their acts of kindness and generosity toward us. I feel that I have been transformed and my life has been truly enriched by those I have encountered in various settings and studies. Thanks be to God!



#stlukeshouston



/stlukeshouston

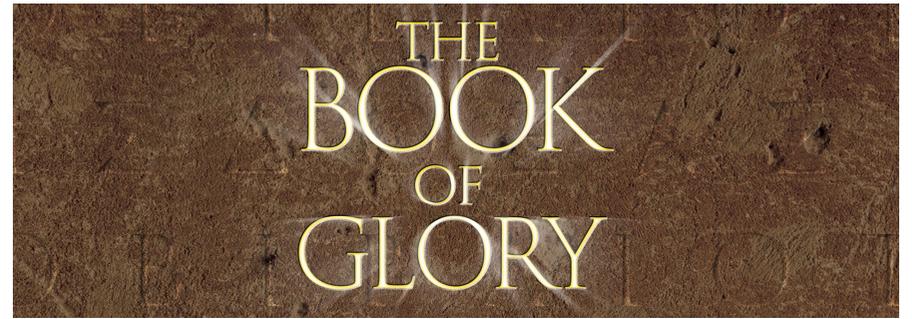


@stlukeshouston

We have a church app! Search *St Lukes UMC Houston* to download from the app store.

ST. LUKE'S INSIDE-OUT HABITS

WE STUDY THE BIBLE AND WORSHIP



John 13: 21-28 ²¹ After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³ One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; ²⁴ Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶ Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.” ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.

Sermon Notes

Betrayed. Denied. What Next?
Second in the Series, *The Book of Glory*
Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles preaching
March 10, 2019

Possible Next Best Step for You...

- Join the Pastor's Sunday School class, taught by Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears and Rev. Thomas Harper each Sunday during Lent in the Fellowship Hall, 9:55-10:45 a.m.
- Each Wednesday during Lent, we will have a special prayer service at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Make plans to attend the services or sign up to be a part of the volunteer team for the service. For more information contact Thomas Harper at tharper@stlukeshouston.org

Key Verse for the Week

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.” – John 13:21

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

Where have your words, actions, attitudes denied or betrayed Jesus? What do you think Jesus is saying to you in response to your denials or betrayals?

WE PRAY

Sunday, March 10

Heavenly Father, I thank you for unexpected blessings and protection which help me grow in my faith. When I have hard times dealing with depression, disappointments, and struggles, let me know that you are always there to guide me. Fill me with your Holy Spirit to be ready to respond and share my faith with others. Strengthen my awareness of the needs of members in my small group and lead me daily to be a servant of Christ to my family. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Monday, March 11

Dear Lord, Thank you for this beautiful day. Thank you for the blessings that St. Luke's brings to our lives. Thank you that we can come to you not only with our problems and requests, but also our praise. Please be with us and help us to remember all the things for which we should be grateful. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

Tuesday, March 12

Dear Lord, my life is blessed and I'm grateful for so many things, especially my LIFT group. I love the friendships I have made and the fellowship we share. I love how we support each other in victory and despair. Thank you God, for putting these people in my life as we learn how to love You. Amen. -Prayer by Liz Fisher, Genesis Sunday School Class

Wednesday, March 13

Heavenly Father, we pray that you would renew our strength and spiritual fervor. Create in us a clean mind, a pure heart, and a sincere faith. Set our hearts on fire for you again. Amen.

Thursday, March 14

Dear God, you know what is heavy on my heart and hurting me. Please take care of my most fervent prayer today and ease my burden. Move my mountains and grant me peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday, March 15

Dear Lord, I am deeply grateful for all the many blessings you have bestowed on me. I am particularly thankful for the great cloud of witnesses, all the saints who have so touched my life and continue to surround and bless me, my family and friends, pastors and teachers and others whose names I may not even know. Today, I commit anew to be such a witness and to be your instrument for blessing others, whenever and wherever I can. Amen. -Prayer by Warren Fisher, Genesis Sunday School Class

Saturday, March 16

Dear God, I surrender my heart to you. Please take my heart and remove the callous. Fix the brokenness of my heart and fill it with your love. Remove the things that bind my heart, and let my heart beat strong for you. Amen.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES DURING LENT

Service of Prayer and Healing | March 13 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel
Prayer Walk in a Labyrinth | March 20 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel
Service with Lectio Divina and a Love Feast | March 27 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel
Service of Prayer and Healing | April 3 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel
Prayer Walk – Stations of the Cross | April 10 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel
Washing of the Feet | April 17 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel

So many ways to pray...

- ♦ Write your prayer request on one of the leaves found in the pew rack
- ♦ Visit the interactive prayer wall: StLukesMethodist.org/prayer
- ♦ Call the prayer line: 713-402-5088

Fervent Prayer Partners: Are you in need of one-on-one confidential and consistent prayer? A Fervent Prayer Partner will communicate and pray with you via email as you go through a difficult time. Contact Rev. Thomas Harper at tharper@stlukesmethodist.org.

We are here for you! If you or someone you know needs prayer, a hospital visit or contact from a minister, call Rev. Bill Denham at 713-402-5156.

WE MAKE FRIENDS

Starts Today! Pastor's Sunday School Class | Sundays during Lent | 9:55–10:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall

This large, lecture-style class is open to all adults. This class is studying the narrative of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation with Rev. Thomas Harper and Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears.

Scripture+Shared Spring Study Groups | *The Gospel of John*

It's not too late to ask a friend to be your Bible buddy and join this eight-week study with Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles from Perkins School of Theology along with St. Luke's clergy. Download the Scripture+Shared app or find materials online at StLukesMethodist.org/bible.

Can't find a way to fit a group into your schedule? Rev. Thomas Harper is hosting a Google Hangout group for Scripture+Shared: StLukesMethodist.org/groupfinder.

Lenten Music for Meditation and Reflection | Thursday, March 14 | 12:05 p.m.

Join us in the Chapel with Amy Wiggs on flute.

Forgotten God | Wednesdays, March 20 - May 1 | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | ES311

Led by Louise McEvoy

As Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit—the Helper—so that we could be true and living witnesses for Christ. In his book *Forgotten God*, author Francis Chan contends that we've ignored the Spirit for far too long, and we are reaping the results. Cost \$26. Register: StLukesMethodist.org/groupfinder

Experience Austria, the Czech Republic and the Oberammergau Passion Play June 23 - July 4, 2020

Dr. Tom Pace and Dr. Linda Christians will lead this inspirational 10-day pilgrimage. Contact Karen Smith at 713-402-5086.

WE GIVE OURSELVES AWAY

in generosity and service.

Church-wide food drive | March 24 | 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | Activity Center

Let's help Christian Community Service Center restock their shelves with non-perishable food items.

Add to your grocery list: canned fruit, hearty canned soup, canned peas and/or carrots and can openers. Drop-off food donations in the Activity Center. Volunteers needed to sort food.

Lenten Flower Dedications

Contributions to the Lenten Flowers Fund are a wonderful way to honor or remember loved ones. Acknowledgments will be in the bulletins on Easter Sunday. Forms are available at the Information Desk or the Church Office. Dedications due Sunday, April 7. Contact Grace Roman at 713-402-5016.

Care for others who are hurting.

Prayer and Healing Service Team | Every Wednesday during Lent | 7 p.m.

Each week during Lent, we will have a special service for those seeking prayer and healing. We'd love to have you as a volunteer to serve communion, pray with others, greet others, set up, and/or clean up. Contact Thomas Harper at tharper@stlukesmethodist.org.



The more we practice gratitude, the more we experience it in our hearts and express it in the way we live. One of the ways we will practice gratitude in 2019 is by writing 365 thank you notes—one each day. It is not too late to start and if you are writing notes, keep on going!