

## WE TELL OUR STORIES



### Some things you have to unlearn.

By Rev. David Horton

An eighth grader at Jane Long Academy, located only one block to the east of Gethsemane, stabbed and killed another eighth grader after school on Wednesday, March 6. It was Ash Wednesday, the day that God literally rubs mortality in your face. The boys had crossed over Bellaire Blvd to a convenience store on the corner. It was there that one of the boys purchased a brownie and the other boy asked for a bite of it. The first boy said no. The second boy said a few choice words he shouldn't have. Then the first boy pulled a knife. All over a brownie.

Some things you have to unlearn. You don't have to choose a knife over words. You don't have to escalate the situation when you could just walk away. Manage your emotions instead of your emotions managing you. You don't need violence to prove you're a man.

On Thursday morning, when students and teachers showed up to school and learned one of their own was brain dead, the church showed up, too. Rob Dulaney, Amy Kelley, and Rev. Carrie Leader, a deacon appointed to Houston reVision, offered grief counseling to any student or teacher who needed it. I went to visit the student and his family at Memorial Hermann. He was good looking. Give him four years and he would have been Prom King. I prayed with mom and dad. Then the pediatrician explained to them in fluent Spanish that though their son was present in body, he would never again be present in mind.

The student passed away that Friday, so Gethsemane organized a community prayer vigil for Sunday. I thought fifty or so people would show up. There were at least four hundred, with standing room only in the sanctuary. The Jane Long principal spoke of her confusion and sadness and questions for God. We prayed together. Then we hit the sidewalk and walked the two blocks to the site of the violence. It was a mass exodus from a place of sanctuary to a place of bloodshed. There, many hundreds of us lit candles, the same candles we use on Christmas Eve, to push back the darkness. We reclaimed that space for God.

Lent is a time of unlearning. Violence is not how you prove you're a man. The darkness is not stronger than the light. We're not as divided as we feel. The art of neighboring is not dead. And death really isn't the end.



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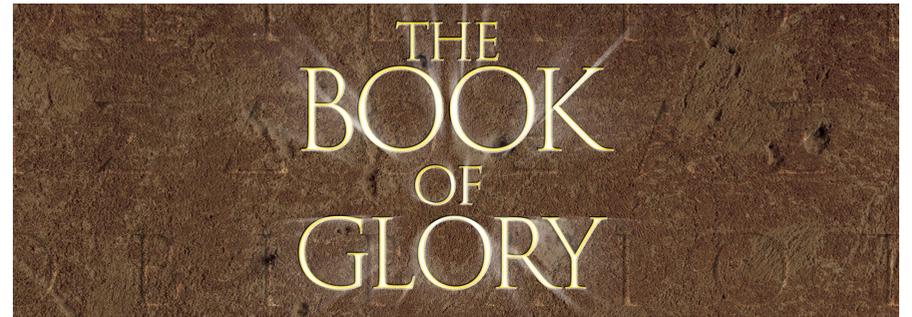


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## ST. LUKE'S INSIDE-OUT HABITS

### WE STUDY THE BIBLE AND WORSHIP



**John 14: 1-14** <sup>1</sup>"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

#### Sermon Notes

##### *Showing the Father*

##### Third in the Series, *The Book of Glory*

Dr. Tom Pace preaching

March 17, 2019

- 1) Troubled hearts
- 2) Jesus' mission: showing us the Father
- 3) Our mission
  - Believe
  - Greater works: show the world Jesus

#### Possible next best step for you...

- Perhaps today is a day to decide to let go of your troubled heart and just trust in Jesus...
- Support our Food Drive for CCSC! Pick up a grocery sack on your way out today, fill it up, and bring it back with you next week. We will be collecting in the Activity Center from 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. next Sunday, March 24.

#### Key Verse for the Week

*Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? -John 14:9*

#### Questions for Conversation and Reflection

What troubles your heart? In what way does Jesus provide an answer to that trouble?

## WE PRAY

### Sunday, March 17

Dear Heavenly Father, May we see your goodness and the depth of your love more fully throughout the season of Lent. Help us quiet our minds, simplify, and reduce our stress so our hearts can grow closer to you. May our actions be a reflection of love and gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus to forgive us from our sins. Help us feel the joy of your strength, love and grace in his resurrection. In Jesus' name. Amen.

-Prayer by Charlene Rogers, Genesis Sunday School Class

### Monday, March 18

Gracious Lord, thank you for your presence with us every day and for placing your shroud of safety over us. We thank you for the many wonderful blessings you present to us each day. Help us to remember that these good and perfect gifts are a sign of your love towards us, your unending love. Help us to be good stewards of these gifts to others as we go about our day. In your son's name, Amen.

-Prayer by Brad Jackson, Genesis Sunday School Class

### Tuesday, March 19

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ, who saved us from our sins. Help us to reopen the amazing gift of salvation, and help us to experience the power of the resurrection. Amen.

### Wednesday, March 20

Father God, thank you for all of the many blessings you have bestowed

on us in the past and present and for those that will come in the future. It is far too easy for us to take them for granted each day. In my quiet times with you, your truth is revealed to me and I do know that all that we have and who we are comes from you Lord, through your abundant love and grace. May your love and grace flow through us to others as we work to bring your Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior's name we pray. Amen.

-Prayer by Steve Nelson, Genesis Sunday School Class

### Thursday, March 21

Heavenly Creator, you have called each of us to a specific place for a specific purpose. Help us to always be working for your Kingdom wherever we are and in every circumstance. Amen.

### Friday, March 22

Lord in Heaven, thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed on us. Help us to keep our focus on you so that we may see all of the amazing ways that you are working in our world. Then, O Lord, equip us so that we might join you in your Kingdom work here on earth. All honor and glory is yours. Amen.

### Saturday, March 23

God of Love, help us to be slow anger, and show us the freedom of forgiveness. Change our hearts so that we act out of love, show mercy, and walk humbly. Amen.

## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES DURING LENT

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](http://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](mailto: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

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

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

### It's not too late to ask a friend to be your Scripture+Shared Bible buddy!

Follow the daily readings for *Book of Glory*, watch the video and meet your buddy for coffee to discuss! Download the Scripture+Shared app or find materials online at [StLukesMethodist.org/bible](http://StLukesMethodist.org/bible).

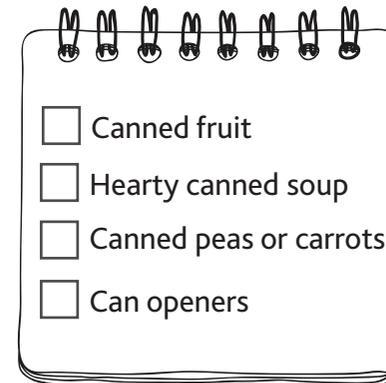
**Are you experiencing the Daily Acts of Grace and Mercy?** You will be blessed to be a blessing. Download the activities at [StLukesMethodist.org/easter](http://StLukesMethodist.org/easter).

**Lenten Music for Meditation and Reflection | Thursday, March 21 | 12:05 p.m.** Join us in the Chapel with Rob Landes on piano.

**Play date for 2s-PreK (and their families) Sunday, March 24 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m.** Make new friends and join us on the Edloe playground for snacks and play time.

## 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. Take this list with you to the grocery store then drop off food donations in the Activity Center next Sunday.

If time permits, stay and help sort food.

### Easter Offering 2019 | AVDA: Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse

One in every four women in this country experiences domestic abuse in her lifetime. AVDA takes a holistic approach to changing this statistic through victim advocacy, a legal services program, and their battering intervention program. Envelopes are available in the pews or give online at [My.Stlukesmethodist.org/EasterOffering](http://My.Stlukesmethodist.org/EasterOffering)

### 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 in the Johnson Gathering area. Dedications due Sunday, April 7. Contact Grace Roman at 713-402-5016.



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 already writing notes, keep on going!