

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 13, 2020

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” **2 Timothy 1:7.**

The **Coronavirus** is real, however through faith with God we can overcome it! Listed below are tips and precautions that we as a church are taking and are encouraging you to practice.

Take steps to protect yourself



Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a **hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.



Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care.



Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



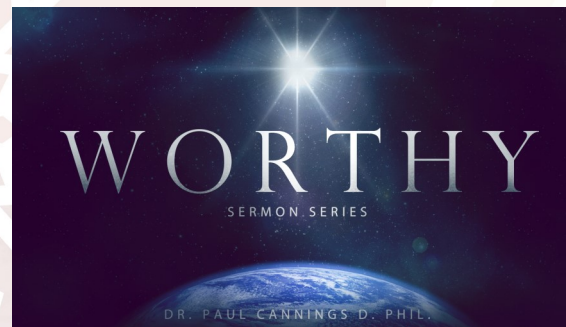
Wear a facemask if you are sick

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.
- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a face-mask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.



Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.



UPCOMING Events



Christmas at the MOVIES (Drive-In Theatre)

Enjoy an evening of entertainment on the big screen – all from the comfort and convenience of your car! Living Word Fellowship Church invites you to our first Drive - In Movie Night! Safely enjoy a night out with your family and friends on **Saturday, December 19th** starting at 6pm. The parking lot opens at 5pm.



Ugly Sweater Sunday

Join us in-person or online for a special Sunday Service on **December 20th!** You are invited to dress up in your favorite Ugly Christmas Sweater during church service.

Take your picture and upload it to the church's Facebook or Instagram page tag **#UglySweaterLWFC**



Unboxing Christmas Musical LIVE!

The Worship & Arts ministry and LWFC Kidz invites to witness the true meaning of Christmas with a live musical performance called **"A Charlie Brown's Unboxing Christmas Musical"** on **December 24th at 6pm**. Stream it online by visiting the church's **YouTube** and **Facebook** pages.

This will be a performance you don't want to miss!



Toy Drive Giveaway

Please help Living Word Fellowship Church give small toys to children ages 2-12 in the Acres Home Community of Houston on or before **December 19th** on Amazon. <https://a.co/40dOEtC>



Prayer Revival 2021

Join Living Word Fellowship Church as we bring in the year of our annual Prayer Revival! **January 5th-7th | 7pm**

Mark your calendar!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Song

Communion

Praise & Worship

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving
Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Word of God
A Divine Interruption
Luke 1:38-45

Dr. Paul Cannings, Senior Pastor

*Sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org
Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"*

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song

Soft launch for the return of Children's Church begins today Sunday. Children must be picked up **immediately** at the conclusion of each service.



LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
e 7:30 PM

A Divine Interruption

Luke 1:38-45

A. An Abrupt Change of Plans (vs. 38-40):

1. This is one of the greatest responses in the Bible. E.g., Ruth and Isaiah.
2. She is a slave-girl for God (an act of full submission sometimes means to the point of death) committed to the authority and power of God (Lord). She knew there would be difficult days ahead; she could be divorced (Matthew 1:19; Joseph did think about it), suffer death (Deut. 22:23), disgrace among people in the community (a small community 1,500 – 2000), rejected by her parents and without a skill, live destitute the rest of her life. This is also a time where medical care is not great.
3. All-powerful word or command of God.
4. The presence of God indwelling her (this could be an acknowledgement that she is pregnant).
5. Mary took it upon herself to get up after Gabriel spoke to her and immediately go to Elizabeth.
6. Mary proceeded to Elizabeth knowing it was a considerable distance for her to travel.
 - a) The journey was about 80–100 miles from Nazareth and would take about 3–4 days. Mary's haste (σπουδή*) reflects her obedience to the angelic message.[1]
7. Mary was determined to visit Elizabeth.
8. Mary did not appear to knock. She seemed so intent on seeing Elizabeth that she came directly into the house in search of Elizabeth.
9. By greeting Elizabeth, it is possible that Mary called her name recognizing her or Mary came to her, embraced her, and kissed her. It signifies someone being happy to see another person and to talk to them in a welcoming manner.

B. Plans Confirmed (vs. 41-43):

1. At the moment Mary called out to Elizabeth she gained Elizabeth's attention. Elizabeth clearly understood that it was Mary and John the Baptist leaped in her womb.
2. Elizabeth's baby, John the Baptist, rapidly moved his legs in excitement, an expression of joy at the sound of Mary's voice.
3. The Holy Spirit took control of Elizabeth.
4. The divine Holy Spirit has the full ability of God.
5. After 400 hundred years of silence, the Holy Spirit began to speak again.
6. Elizabeth uncharacteristically shouted very loud, while empowered and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

7. She accepted what the angel said as true and trustworthy.
8. Elizabeth's boisterous greeting to Mary was to praise her for having a cherished relationship with God. This seemed to be an indication that Mary was already pregnant.
9. Elizabeth's boisterous greeting was done to let her know her pregnancy was a gift from God, one that would bring prosperity and happiness.
10. Elizabeth loudly announces that Mary's womb embraces the One who has all authority and power that is focused on establishing a relationship with mankind.
11. The movement of the Holy Spirit to speak through Elizabeth was to announce that Mary is now pregnant with Christ.
12. Elizabeth is amazed that of all the people in the world God choose Mary to come look for her.
13. Elizabeth marveled at the grace that allowed her a role in God's great plan. She knew God owed her nothing; but she also knew that God had mercifully given her much.

C. Surrendered and Blessed! (vs. 44-45):

1. Elizabeth heard Mary's voice out of nowhere and her complete attention was directed toward Mary.
2. Mary came in and called Elizabeth's name which led John the Baptist to respond in Elizabeth's womb.
3. John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb rapidly moved his legs with excitement, an expression of joy at the sound of Mary's voice.
4. The active movement of John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb was representative of intense joy, or extreme gladness.
5. The word blessed means the person is fully satisfied because the kingdom of God rests in them. It is implied that under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognizes that Mary has the promised Messiah within her.
6. Mary has this blessing because she has an unreserved committed trust in the Lord.
7. Mary is blessed because God knows she will remain confident in His ability to complete what He promises to do through her.
8. Mary totally consecrated herself and remain surrendered to complete the task ahead.
9. Mary was totally surrendered to make sure that everything was completed perfectly just the way Gabriel had explained.
10. Mary understood everything Gabriel said and kept it in her heart, so that she could complete the words that were spoken to her by Gabriel.
11. By the Lord means the Lord speaking through Gabriel.

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Joe Cook & family, Maria Perkins & family, Pat Crawford & family, Eleanor Wilson & family, Phil Baillou & family, Roderick Williams & family, Katrina Humphrey & family, George Washington & family, the family of Dr. Shirley LeDet, Debra Gaines & family, Donna Banks & family, Melinda Myers & family, Joyce Hayes & family, and Deborah Smith & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Hattie Williams, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Booker Wheatley, Brittany Bullock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Debra Gaines, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, and Jon Heard.

A vertical banner with a dark blue, starry night sky background. At the top, a bright sun or starburst shines through a light haze. The title "A Divine Interruption" is written in a large, elegant, blue cursive script. The word "Interruption" is significantly larger and more prominent than "A Divine".

LUKE 1:38-45