

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

Chanhasen
8:15, 9:30, 11:00am
& 5:00pm

Minnetonka
9:30 & 11:00am

LIVE WITH OPEN HANDS...
AND BE AWAKENED,
BE PREPARED AND
BE A BLESSING.

For stories of God at work in and
through the people of Westwood visit
westwoodcc.org/stories



Join us next week as we continue the
series, Paradox: Coming to Grips With the
Contradictions of Jesus.

Enslaved to Be Free November 13
Give and it Will Be Given to You November 20

November 6, 2016

PARADOX

Coming to Grips With the Contradictions of Jesus



westwoodcc.org

Chanhasen • 952.224.7300
Minnetonka • 952.224.7400



Welcome to Westwood!

Is this your first time here? So glad you came!

Welcome to Westwood! If you are unfamiliar with the flow of our service, here's the scoop: We begin with a few worship songs. The lyrics are found on the big screens. The songs are followed by a couple announcements, a time of prayer and offering. The sermon message is given, and the service typically concludes with a song.



Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you some handy information. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. Our Westwood Kids' desk would be glad to help you. Come, let's give our love to God, who first loved us.



COMMUNION TODAY

Today we will experience Communion. We invite everyone who is a follower of Jesus to participate. You do not need to be a member of Westwood.

In the morning services, the bread and cup are passed to you as you are seated. Hold each element until everyone has been served—then we eat and drink together. Gluten-free communion bread is available at usher stations.

In the evening service at our Chanhassen campus, we invite you to come forward to the stations at the front of the aisles. The first server will be holding a tray of bread. Choose a piece and move to the second server holding the cup. Dip your bread into the cup, eat and drink before returning to your seat, using the walkways behind the side tiers. Gluten-free communion bread is available at the front of the left side aisle.

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT

It wouldn't seem like the Christmas season without great music. Join us for a special musical event Friday, December 9 at 7:00pm or Saturday, December 10 at 5:00 & 7:00pm at the Chanhassen campus. Comedian Bob Stromberg will get you laughing and special guest Joel Hanson will put a song in your heart. Also featured are Westwood's own Choir and Orchestra and Kids' Choir. Tickets are on sale on our website.



JOY IN SUFFERING

November 6, 2016

Romans 5:2-5 (ESV)

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Today's Paradox: Rejoice in suffering

What it doesn't mean: You _____

What it does mean: You _____ something

Why we can rejoice in suffering:

- ☉ You know that suffering produces perseverance, or _____
- ☉ You know that suffering produces character, or _____
- ☉ You know that suffering produces hope, or _____
- ☉ You know that hope does not put us to shame, or _____

Coming to Grips with the Contradictions of Jesus #10
“Joy in Suffering”
November 6, 2016

Today’s Paradox: Rejoice in suffering.

Romans 5:1-5 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (ESV)*

1. When did you first come to faith? Who influenced you to believe in Christ? What caused you to receive Christ?
2. Read Romans 5:1-2. What are the two results of being made right with God? What does this verse tell us in terms of how we have peace with God? Paul reminds us that we rejoice because we are going to be with the Lord. We have a hope for the future, a hope beyond death. That is the initial phase of Christian growth. How much did that promise of life with God in eternity shape your personal decision to follow Christ?
3. Not only is this true, but there is something more. Read Romans 5:3-5. Suffering is part of life. Pastor Joel spoke about what rejoicing in suffering does not mean and what it does mean. What does it not mean? Why is this helpful?
4. To rejoice in suffering, according to Paul in Romans 5:3, means that we know suffering produces something worthwhile, something of value in life. Paul gives four reasons why we can rejoice in suffering. Review the meaning of each and apply it to your own lives by sharing in your groups how you have experienced the promise of these worthwhile qualities.
 - a. You know that suffering produces perseverance, or steadiness.
 - What is perseverance?
 - How have you seen steadiness increase through the sufferings you’ve experienced?
 - b. You know that suffering produces character, or reliability.
 - Share how suffering strengthened your character
 - Did family, friends or colleagues view you or treat you differently because of how you walked through a time of suffering?
 - c. You know that suffering produces hope, or certainty
 - What is it we are hoping in?
 - Are you growing in the likeness of Christ?

- d. You know that hope does not put us to shame, or disappoint
 - What's the role of the Holy Spirit in giving us hope?
 - Do you see your own suffering as an indication of God's love or wrath?
5. Why can believers rejoice in the midst of suffering?
6. What are some things man does so God will be at peace with him?
7. How did God show His love for us (Romans 5:6-8)?
8. Does anyone know of an example of someone dying for a good person? Bad?
9. Can anyone tell me what 'justified' means (Romans 5:1)?
10. What does the 'by faith' mean (Romans 5:1)? Why by faith only (relate to former section).
11. How is Christ's death related to this 'justification by faith' or our salvation?
12. What are the two results of being made right with God (Romans 5:1-2)?
13. Doesn't man have peace with God anyway? How are we at war?

Application

1. If someone asked, "How do you know when you are a Christian?" from our discussion, how would we answer him or her?
2. Why it is so difficult for man to come to the Lord? Is salvation a 50/50 venture?