

**10:00 Morning Prayer and Praise**  
**Matters for Prayer/Prayer Matters:**

- to keep Jesus central in our Christmas and to share Him
- health of Diane Bartholic and Conner Reed
- the lonely, left out, looked over . . . and our part
- Haiti, in the midst of dangerous political, social upheaval

**CCF's Unifying Mission is to:**  
*Be and make disciples of Jesus who love God and others to His glory*

- Using our Spirit-given gifts and resources
- Relying on His strength
- Serving with His body, family
- Following Him through His Word

**10:45 Getting a Handle on This Marvelous Messiah!**  
*Matthew 15:29-39* **Kerry Doyal**

**ANNUAL MEETING, AFTER WORSHIP, DECEMBER 9**  
 Pick up the proposed budget, and prayerfully consider these Deacon nominees—Dan Allshouse, Scott Bailey, Derek Bartholic, Diane Bartholic, Zachary Kennedy, and Rob Schreckengost. If you have a cause for concern [1 Timothy 3, Titus 1], speak to Matt Smith or Kerry ASAP.

**CAROLING AT ROSEBROOK**  
 Join us December 5 [7 p.m.] for Caroling the Halls of Rosebrook. Wear red, Santa hats, reindeer antlers . . . or, help with game time.

**HOMEGROUP BIBLE STUDY**  
 We meet at the home of Matt and Sherri Smith every first and third Sunday of each month. A shared dinner begins at 5 p.m. with the study to follow. All are welcome; check with Matt or Sherri for details.

**UPCOMING EQUIPPING AND MINISTRY EVENTS**  
**December 9**—Annual Business Meeting, kids' music and party  
**December**—caroling, Christmas Eve . . .  
**2019**—Ruminating on Righteousness in Romans

**MEN'S SATURDAY AM BIBLE STUDY**  
 Guys . . . join us for fellowship and growth in the Lord on Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m., here. We have two more dates this year—December 8 and 15. Contact—Zak Kennedy.

**HELP US TO HOLD CAMP!**  
 Help wanted for Junior Week, July 21 to 26, in Jonesville, Virginia—kitchen, games, counselors, worship, teachers, crafts, arts, repair, AND campers! Approximate expense is \$150. **RSVP to KSD.**

**2018 BIBLE READ THROUGH**  
**December 3, 4, 6** Psalm 141, 142, 140  
**December 5** Ephesians 6:10-23  
**December 7** Matthew 16:1-12

**YOUTH—MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS [7 TO 8:30 P.M.]**

- December 5—**Caroling at Rosebrook!** [7 p.m.]
- December 12—**play, pray, stud-ay** [7 to 8:30 p.m.]
- December 19—**Christmas cookies, party with Brownies** [6-8 p.m.]
- December 30—**Regional Youth Event** [Sunday, 6 to 8 p.m.]

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS SLIDES**  
 Any ministry team leader who has an announcement to add to the events slides [which run every Sunday morning before the service] is asked to email Dan at [D.Allshouse77@gmail.com](mailto:D.Allshouse77@gmail.com).

**INK AND TONER CARTRIDGES**  
 Thanks to everyone who has provided cartridges to allow CCF to earn Staples rewards. If you do **not** participate in a 'cartridge return for rewards' program and you would like to turn in those cartridges for CCF Staples rewards, hand those used cartridges over to Sid Paul!

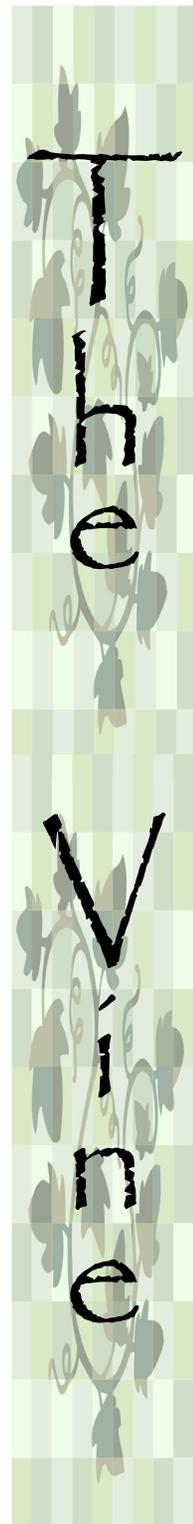


Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
 and his courts with praise!  
 Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
 For the Lord is good;  
 his steadfast love endures forever,  
 and his faithfulness to all generations.  
 [Psalm 100:4-5 ESV]



**GETTING A HANDLE ON GOD'S MESSIAH!**  
 Hallelujah to God's Sent One—from Matthew 15:29-39

“Stop me if you’ve heard this one before . . .” Reading Matthew 15:29-39, you may think Matthew has lost track of what he has already written about Jesus. This text has a déjà vu (“already seen”) feel to it: masses coming to Jesus, His sitting on a hill, multitudes miraculously healed, and fed, His “not getting it” disciples, Him moving on . . .



## GETTING A HANDLE ON GOD'S MESSIAH!

Hallelujah to God's Sent one—from Matthew 15:29-39  
[continued]

Why do we repeat stories? Could it be both emphasis via repetition, and the distinctions in the differences? Yes, Jesus is once again compassionately healing, feeding masses. But who, when, where? Evading political, and religious powers, Jesus is in heavily Gentile territory, giving even more of the children's bread to the dogs (see 15:21-28). He is behaving—again—so much like God's Messiah, that even these outsiders are "amazed" and giving "glory to the God of Israel" (vs. 31; Isaiah 35:4-6). Circle the parts of this passage that Matthew has already written something like:

"Moving on from there, Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee. He went up on a mountain and sat there, and large crowds came to him, including the lame, the blind, the crippled, those unable to speak, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he healed them. So the crowd was amazed when they saw those unable to speak talking, the crippled restored, the lame walking, and the blind seeing, and they gave glory to the God of Israel.

Jesus called his disciples and said, "I have compassion on the crowd, because they've already stayed with me three days and have nothing to eat. I don't want to send them away hungry, otherwise they might collapse on the way."

The disciples said to him, "Where could we get enough bread in this desolate place to feed such a crowd?" "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked them. "Seven," they said, "and a few small fish."

After commanding the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They collected the leftover pieces—seven large baskets full. Now there were four thousand men who had eaten, besides women and children. After dismissing the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan." (**Matthew 15:29-39 –CSB**)

### The Cast, Setting, Same/Differences:

- Jesus, God's Miraculous, Merciful-to-all Messiah (cf. 15:27, 28)
- The Marveling, Mixed-Motive Outsiders of Decapolis (John 6:26-42)
- The Needy, getting Mercy, Praising Israel's God (Isaiah 29:18-23; 35:4-7)
- The Dull (less-compassionate?) Disciples (cf. 6:30; 8:25-27; 14:31)

### Points to Ponder, Praise to Give, Paths to Pursue:

- ❖ Have you come to God's Messiah, who came to us? (John 1:1-14)
- ❖ Who will you bring to, put at Jesus' feet? (Matthew 9:35-38; 28:18-20)
- ❖ Have you started, or stopped, marveling, praising? (Romans 11:33-36)
- ❖ Does faith-filled compassion compel you? (Acts 6; 2 Corinthians 5:14)
- ❖ How many baskets will it take for you to believe? Cf. Matthew 16:8; 17:20

## Christ Community Fellowship

160 Singleton Road \* Sarver, PA 15065 \* 724.353.1001



DECEMBER 2, 2018

### *"The birth of Jesus Christ . . .*

"...came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

"But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

See, the virgin will become pregnant  
and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel,  
which is translated "God is with us." [from Isaiah 7:14]

"When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus."

(**Matthew 1:18-25 –CSB**)

**Welcome, Guests!** We are honored to have you with us. Please let us know how we can be of help. Also, please fill in an information card and put in the offering box.

**Children** are dismissed to classes after our shared time of worship. **We also have a nursery.** Infants are welcome in the service. Please be sensitive to the distraction those cute, squirmy ones can be. **Thank you.**

**Let's connect!** Visit our website at [ccffriends.org](http://ccffriends.org) and Facebook at [facebook.com/ccffriendssarver](https://www.facebook.com/ccffriendssarver). Pastor Kerry's number is 724-664-9193 [call or text]. Connect via e-mail at [kerry.doyal@gmail.com](mailto:kerry.doyal@gmail.com) or Facebook.