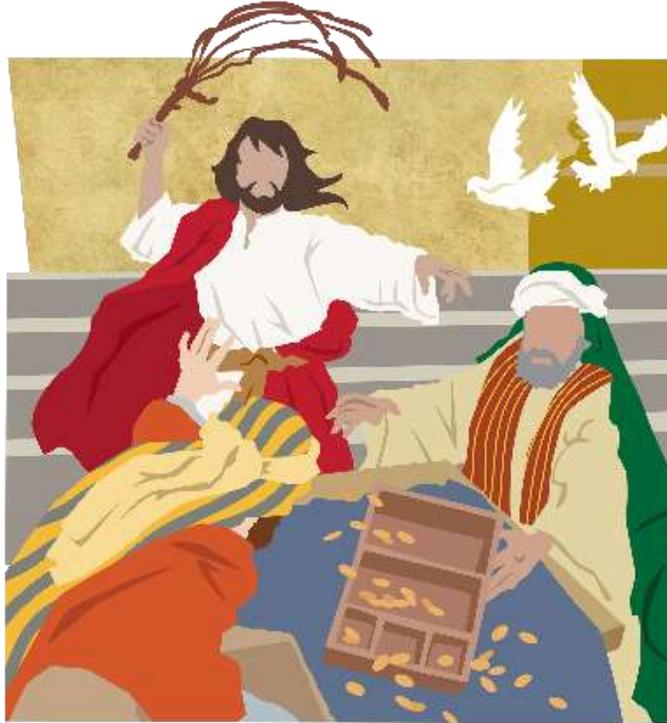


ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

March 7, 2021

10:30 a.m. Sunday



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

The God Who Corrects Us

AS WE GATHER *(based on Ephesians 4:17-32)*

In today's Epistle, Paul talks about the old self and new self like old and new garments. We are to take off the old, filthy, corrupt one (full of deceit, lies, unbridled anger, bitterness, unwholesome talk, slander, stealing and more) and put on the new, attractive one (by using words that build up one another, by showing kindness, compassion and forgiveness and more). Elsewhere, Paul talks about the new self as a "robe of righteousness" that we "put on" like a new, clean, wholesome garment. It is the robe of Jesus' perfection which makes us right in God's eyes.

Just as we dress appropriately for certain occasions, as "children of light" we want to always be appropriately "dressed" - to bring honor to God, to show we belong to Him, to show the attractiveness of the Christian life, to "build up others according to their needs" and to put into practice the things we know are true and good and right.

Gathering Song

Living Stones

Michael A. Schmid

Jesus Christ is our Cornerstone
He's the Rock He's the Solid Foundation
We are building on Jesus alone
Building up as the people of God

Each of us is a living stone
Precious stones in the building of Jesus
In this house we don't stand all alone
We are one we're the people of God

**CHORUS: Living stones...We are living
Living stones...Built on Christ
Living stones...Holy people of God
Building on the firm foundation of Christ (Repeat Chorus)**

Jesus You are our Cornerstone You're the Rock
You're the Solid Foundation
We are building on Your love alone
Build us up as the people of God

Each of us is a living stone
We're alive in the love of Jesus
We are trusting in Jesus alone
We are His We're the people of God

CHORUS

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song

Lord, Reign In Me

Brown

Over all the earth, You reign on high,
every mountain stream, every sunset sky.
But my one request, Lord, my only aim
is that You'd reign in me again.

**CHORUS: Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power;
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour.
You are the Lord of all I am,
So won't You reign in me again.**

Over every thought, over every word,
may my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing.
So won't you reign in me again. **CHORUS X2**

Invocation

Psalm *Psalm 19:7–11*

Pastor: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: **the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;**

Pastor: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: **the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;**

Pastor: the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;

People: **the just decrees of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.**

Pastor: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

People: **sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Pastor: Moreover, by them is Your servant warned;

People: **in keeping them there is great reward.**

Confession and Absolution *Psalm 19:12–14*

Pastor: When we use the Ten Commandments and other parts of the moral code as a mirror, we see that we have fallen from the perfection of God's good creation and His perfect Law.

Who can discern his errors?

People: **Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**

Pastor: Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;

People: **let them not have dominion over me!**

Pastor: Our gracious Lord has promised full and free forgiveness to all who call out to our heavenly Father in His name. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: **O God, we confess that we have sinned against You and one another in our thinking, speaking, and acting. Worse, in our fallen nature, we are sinful and unclean, and in the eyes of many we are weak, lowly people. But because You have graciously chosen us and worked faith in our hearts, we humbly ask for mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive, renew, and lead us in paths of righteousness.**

Pastor: The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. We preach Christ crucified, and for us the word of the cross is the power of God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

People: **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

FORGIVEN

✂ WORD ✂

Epistle: Ephesians 4:17-32

(Paul tells us we are dressed appropriately for the Christian life when we “put off the old self” and “put on the new self.”)

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.



Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Verse Joel 2:13b

Pastor: Return to the LORD, your God,

People: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.

Holy Gospel: John 2:13-22

(Jesus drives the money-changers from the temple.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2nd Chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

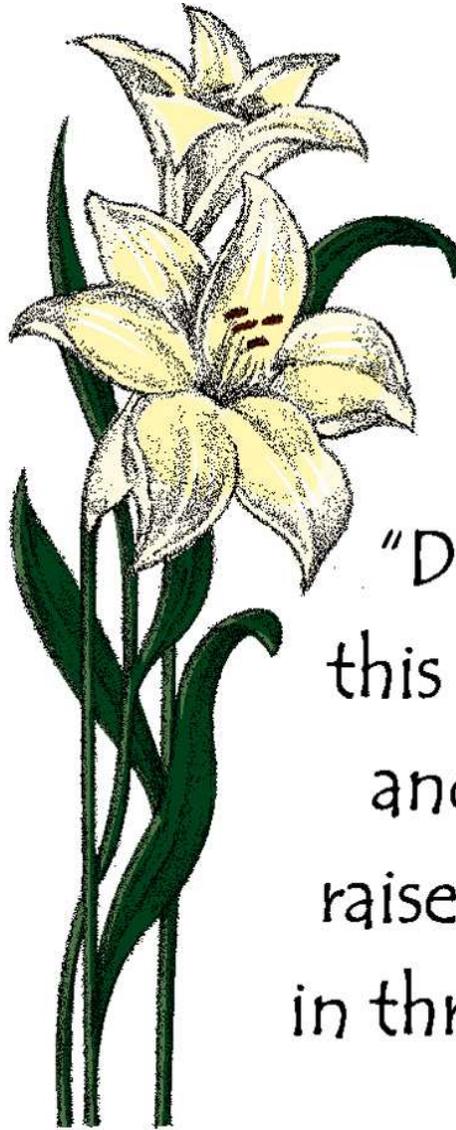
The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"

But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message



"Destroy
this temple,
and I will
raise it again
in three days."

John 2:19

Christa Kirschner

VERSE

6 I thank You, Lord, for lov-ing me in spite of all the dirt in me. I
 thank you, Lord, for free-ing me from all the sin that drags on me. I thank You, Lord, for

CHORUS

11 chang-ing me, Your Word and Spir - it shap-ing me. Now help me, Je-sus, let go of my
 16 fool - ish pride. I'm sick with self and sin, fool - ish
 21 pride that keeps you out, not in. Oh Je - sus, break down all my pride and

TAG

26 op - en me a - gain. Flow through me Your might-y rush-ing Wind.

Sermon

"The God Who Corrects Us"

Pastor John Larson

TEXT: Ephesians 4:17-32

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

Offering ***Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.***

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



✘ SACRAMENT ✘

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Jesus Messiah

Tomlin

He became sin, who knew no sin;
that we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

**CHORUS: Jesus, Messiah;
Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners,
The ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

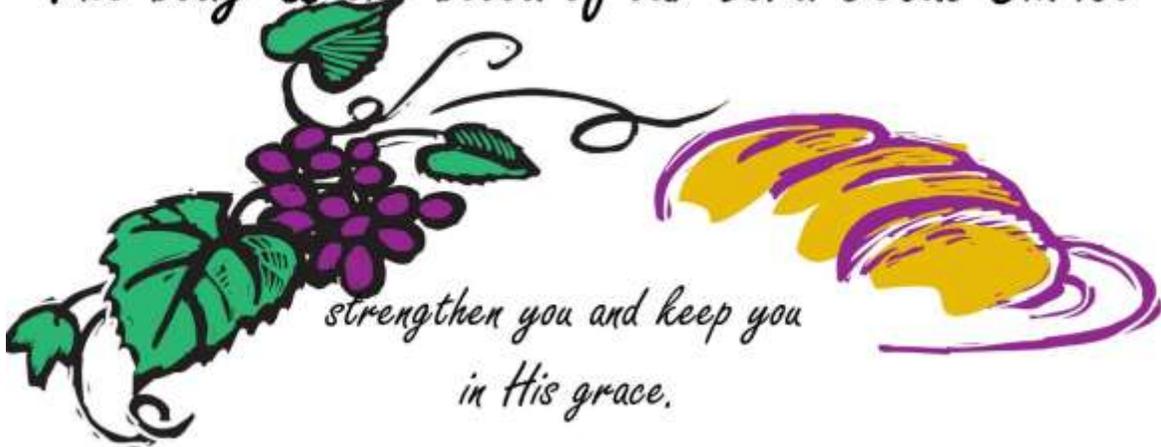
His body, the bread; His blood, the wine;
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing. **CHORUS**

All our hope is in You,
aAl our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God,
The light of the world. **CHORUS**

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.
The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

General Communion Blessing

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ



Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Closing Song

Build Your Kingdom Here

Rend Collective

Come set Your rule, and reign In our hearts again.
Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope, Like wildfire in our very souls;
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now.
We are Your church; we need Your pow'r in us.
We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;
Refuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize.
To see the captives' hearts released; The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause.
We are Your church; we pray, revive this earth.

**CHORUS: Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere.
Build Your kingdom here, we pray!**

Unleash Your kingdom's power, Reaching the near and far.
No force of hell can stop Your beauty, changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this; Awake the kingdom seed in us.
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.
We are Your church; We are the hope on earth. **CHORUS**

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(and Row by Row Dismissal)



Serving in Worship

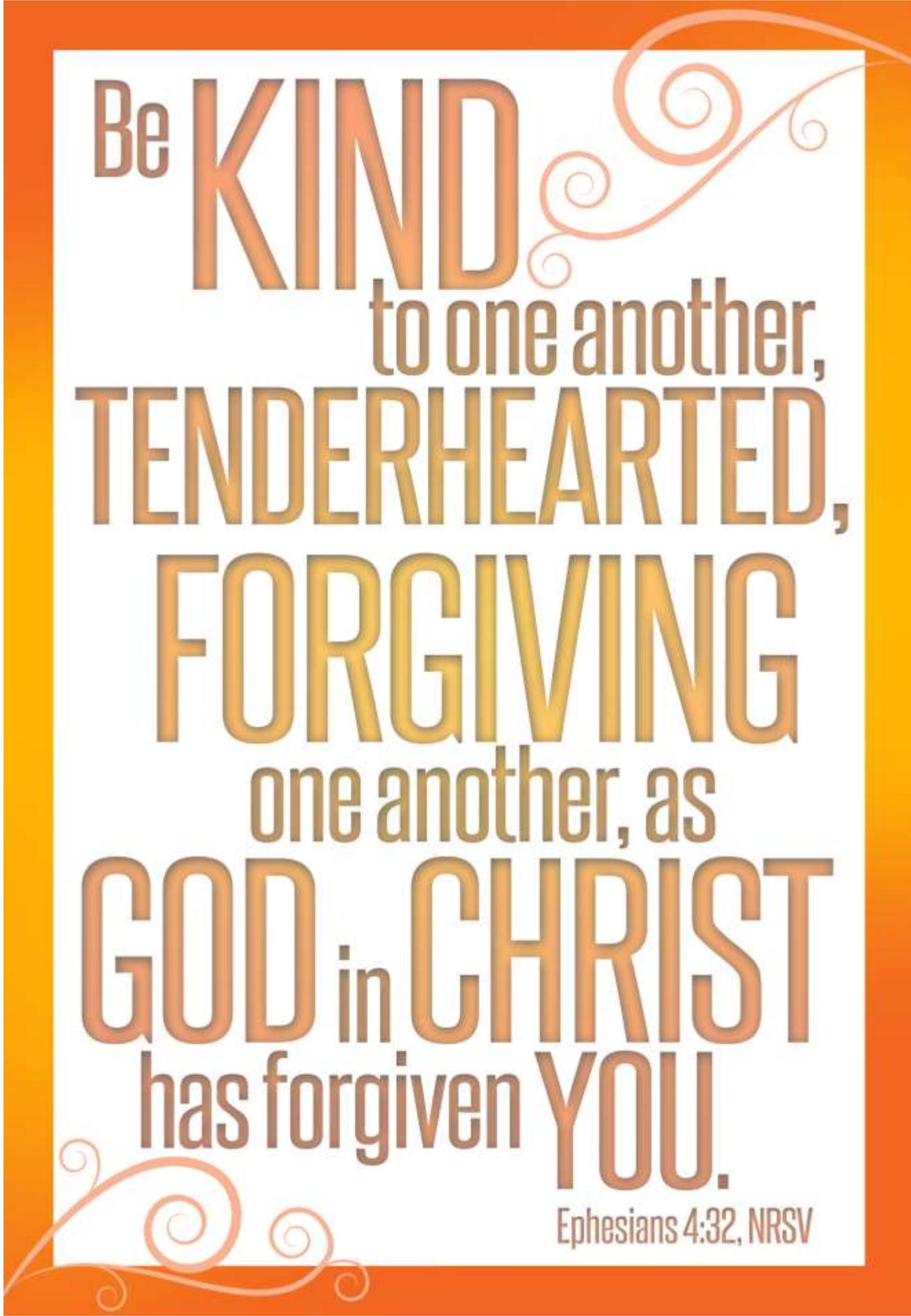
OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
PRAISE TEAM

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Youth Praise Team



Be kind
to one
another.

EPHESIANS 4:32, ESV



Be **KIND**
to one another,
TENDERHEARTED,
FORGIVING
one another, as
GOD in **CHRIST**
has forgiven **YOU.**

Ephesians 4:32, NRSV