

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road
Grand Island, New York www.bfcgi.org 716-773-3748

THE LORD'S DAY

January 1, 2017 10:15AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann
Piano Wendy Baldwin

MEDITATION

“Important Phrases in Jonah 1 & 2 - opposite page

Doxology
Prayer and Scripture Reading Psalm 5
Hymn 152 “The Majesty and Glory of Your Name”
Instrumental Solo Mackenzie Smith
Pastoral Prayer and hymn 317 “O Mighty Cross” Pastor Cal VanderMey
Communion followed by hymn 308 “There Is a Redeemer”
Message EPIPHANY: WISE GUYS, BAD GUYS, AND ANGELS
Matthew 2:13-23 Dr. Michael Heuer
Hymn 232 “God Be With You” Benediction

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday at 6:30pm
Tuesday Bible study: The book of Jude at 7pm - Pastor Cal teaching
Wednesday Men's Bible study at 9:00am – Jim O'Rourke teaching
Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell teaching
The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary
Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz
Special thanks to Tracy Schultz and all the teachers and helpers for the beautiful Children's Advent program this year!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

New Year's Day Sunday One Service Only at 10:15am followed immediately by a Bring a Dish to Pass Luncheon

We welcome Dr. Michael Heuer to our pulpit this morning

"Dr Michael H. Heuer is an active duty colonel in the Air Force Chaplain Corps, serving in a Department of Defense staff position in the Washington, DC area. He holds a Ph.D. in Religion and Master's degrees in Counseling, Military Science, and Religion.

Next Sunday we return to 8:30 & 10:15am services

“Important Phrases in Jonah 1 & 2

Here are some key phrases in the first two chapters of Jonah and some comments about them.

1. “Nineveh, that great city” found in Jonah 1:2. This was accurate as Nineveh was a complex of cities, making Nineveh the largest city in the world in Jonah’s day. The population has been estimated at 600,000, and the walls around the core city were 100 feet high.
2. “Their wickedness” in Jonah 1:2 speaks of the gross idolatry, immorality and cult worship that were among Nineveh’s many sins.
3. “Belly of sheol” found in Jonah 2:2. Sheol was the place in the Old Testament where spirits of deceased persons went at death to await their eternal disposition. Jonah likened the inside of the fish to a kind of grave. As one who intensely dislikes fish, I can *Amen* Jonah’s thoughts. I don’t want to be inside a fish’s stomach, nor do I want a fish inside my stomach.
4. “Lying vanities” found in Jonah 2:8. The whole verse might be paraphrased: “They that worship false gods cut themselves off from the God of mercy.” Here Jonah is saying that judgment is deserved because Nineveh has rejected God.



EPIPHANY: WISE GUYS, BAD GUYS, AND ANGELS

Matthew 2:13-23

A. The Holy Family, the Wise Guys, An Angel's Warning--"Get out of Israel and flee to Egypt...NOW!" (2:13-15)

1. Shepherds at the manger in the stable(Luke 2:12, 16--*brephos*, Gr)
2. Wise Men visited Jesus later in a house (Matt 2:8-11--*paidion*, Gr)
3. A star, an angel or the *shekinah* (divine glory)?

B. A Bad Guy--Herod the Great (2:16-18)

1. Not a descendent of David or even Jacob--an Edomite (Esau's line)
 - a. No biblical right to David's throne over Israel
 - b. Hated by many Jews, who didn't consider him Jewish or a King
2. Understandably anxious to see foreign Wise Men looking for someone who WAS a Star out of Jacob and King David's heir
3. Famous for rebuilding and expanding the Second Temple
4. Infamous for being a monster (even before murdering Bethlehem's male children)

C. Another Angelic Message--Holy Family heads North to Nazareth in Galilee (2:19-23)

1. Herod's son Herod Archelaus now ruled Judea, so Joseph still wasn't sure they'd be safe there. Joseph took the family to Israel, but not Judah (the South), settling in Galilee (the North).
2. Galilee (in the North of Israel) is where Jesus during his ministry would be well-received without opposition from religious leaders in Jerusalem. Capernaum (on the Sea of Galilee's shore) became the base of operations for Jesus' ministry.
3. Matthew's repeated reference to Jesus' miraculous conception (2:20--" . . . take the young child and his mother . . . to the land of Israel")