

PASTOR'S NOTES

Easter: The Hour Has Come

John 17:1-5

When our Lord speaks of his hour, he refers to the appointed time, the divine predestined moment of the culmination of his earthly ministry, the fulfillment of his purpose, and the ultimate revelation of his glory.

As Jesus walked among mankind, teaching, healing, and proclaiming the kingdom of Heaven, he understood that his ultimate mission had a designated time appointed by the Father, an hour. When he spoke about it, he did so with reverence, anticipation, and unwavering obedience to his Father's will.

Following Jesus' Triumphant Entry, he made a pivotal statement: *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified"* (John 12:23).

In John 13-16, during Jesus' Last Supper, he spoke with his disciples about his love, unwavering commitment, and assurance of ultimate victory. He concluded their time with a prayer to his Father.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed." (John 17:1-5 ESV)

The hour of glory:

We might define glory as the manifestation of God's greatness, holiness, and majesty. In theological terms, glory is understood as the radiant display of God's attributes. And nowhere or in no one do you find God's glory more ultimately expressed than in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The hour had come for Jesus to be glorified on the cross (vv. 1, 4).

Not only had Jesus perfectly revealed God's attributes on earth—his greatness, holiness, and majesty—but he also demonstrated them perfectly in love, truth, grace, justice, and power.

All that Jesus did—his life and ministry—expressed and demonstrated the glory of God. The glory of the cross was all that was left for Jesus to accomplish. It was the supreme expression and demonstration of God's nature and purpose.

Jesus reveals God's glory on the cross:

- God's holiness
- God's justice
- God's love (John 3:16-17)

The hour had come for the Father to glorify the Son, giving Jesus the means to bring salvation to those given him to bring glory to the Father in our salvation.

The hour had come for Jesus to be glorified in his resurrection and heaven (v. 5).

Over again, Jesus made statements like Mark 9:31. *"The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise."* (ESV)

In every gospel account—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—Jesus made definitive statements about his death and confident statements about his resurrection, both of which are necessary for our salvation. However, in the Lord's prayer of John 17, he looks beyond the cross and resurrection, seeking the Father's glory in heaven as before Christ's incarnation.

We should always remember and praise the Lord Jesus for redeeming and saving us. Yet, we must not envision him on the cross or in the tomb. Rather, we must worship him in his exalted position at the right hand of God the Father in power and glory.

The hour has come for Jesus to be glorified in his church (vv. 2-3, 10).

[Glorify your Son] ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. (John 17:2-3, 10 ESV)

The glory of Christ can now be seen in us, his church.

According to God's eternal plan of salvation, the Father gave Jesus authority over all flesh to grant eternal life to all entrusted to him, which was made possible through the cross.

The fact that Christ saves us from sin and death, declares us righteous, and grants us eternal life in heaven glorifies him, for he alone was given authority to bring it about.

Eternal life comes from knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ. Knowing God is more than being insightful about him; it is a deep, intimate knowledge that comes from a close relationship with Jesus Christ, God in flesh.

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 ESV)

In accordance with his prayer, every time someone comes to the knowledge and faith of God for salvation, Jesus is glorified and continues to be when Christians pursue knowledge of him.



MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, March 31, 2024 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Happy Resurrection Day!

Kay and I welcome you to MeadowBrook's celebration of Jesus' resurrection. We are thrilled you are attending today. Also, I am so encouraged by what the Lord is doing at MeadowBrook, and I'd love for you to be a part of his exciting work!

If you are a guest, please take a moment to fill out a Connection Card located on a seat back. You may hand your completed card to someone at Guest Connections at the main entrance in exchange for a small gift of appreciation.

In addition to the events mentioned in the handout, we invite you to return next Sunday for our 9:00 AM worship service and to Coffee Hour following the morning service on April 21 at Café '59. It will be my honor to get to know you and share more about the church while enjoying a cup of coffee and a pastry. Our treat!

The entire MeadowBrook Family, Kay, and I are delighted you are here.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Randy Gunter





CONNECT *people to Christ
and His church*

THE BOOK OF JOB
WHY? | WISDOM FROM THE LAND OF UZ

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

**Begins April 3
6:30 PM | DINING HALL**

We'd love to see you there!

COFFEE HOUR

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21
10:30 AM at CAFE '59**

**Register at Guest Connections
or mbchurch.com/connections**



Worship Night at MeadowBrook

Wednesday, April 17 | 6:30 PM | Worship Center

Come be a part of a multigenerational worship gathering as we focus our hearts and minds on the Living Savior. MeadowBrook's Kids' Choir, Band and Orchestra, Abundant Life Choir, Collective Worship Team, and the Sunday Worship Choir will be leading. Let's do what Psalm 150 says, "Let EVERYTHING that has breath, praise the Lord!"

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Spring Gathering at The Well Pouring Truth into Others

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 • 11:45 AM • GYM

Cost of \$15 includes

boxed lunch, candle making and chocolate fountain

For ladies of ALL ages, sixth grade & up!

Register on the MB App or at mbchurch.com



GROW *them as disciples
and equip them to*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
8:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
8:30 am - Kids Worship Live - Kids' Theater
10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
10:30 am - Kids Worship Live - Kids' Theater

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

9:00 am - Mom Connections - Café '59 & Gym
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall
10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
10:30 am - Abundant Life Choir to sing at Oak Landing

APRIL 3-14

MeadowBrook Egypt Trip

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Dining Hall
*(Roasted Chicken with Peppers & Onions, 3 Cheese Pasta with Broccoli, Salad Bowl, Corn, Rolls, Dessert;
Kids: Popcorn Chicken, 3 Cheese Pasta, Fruit Salad)*
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 312
6:30 pm - Adult Bible Study on Job,
Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship,
High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

10 am - Threads of Love Knit/Crochet - Conference Center

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**,
we'd like to **CONNECT**
with you! Please fill out
a **CONNECTION CARD**
and stop by
GUEST CONNECTIONS
for a **FREE** gift!

life
group
*Life together for the
Kingdom of God*

SUNDAYS at 10:30 AM

Life Group is the best way to
connect to the ministry and
community at MeadowBrook.

For a listing of our classes,
pick up a brochure at
Guest Connections.

2024 BIBLE READING

March 31 - Mark 16:1-20

April 1 - Exodus 1

April 2 - Exodus 2

April 3 - Exodus 3

Bible reading plans are available at Guest Connections & Ministry Central

April 4 - Exodus 4

April 5 - Exodus 5

April 6 - Exodus 6-7



SERVE *through missions,
ministry and worship*

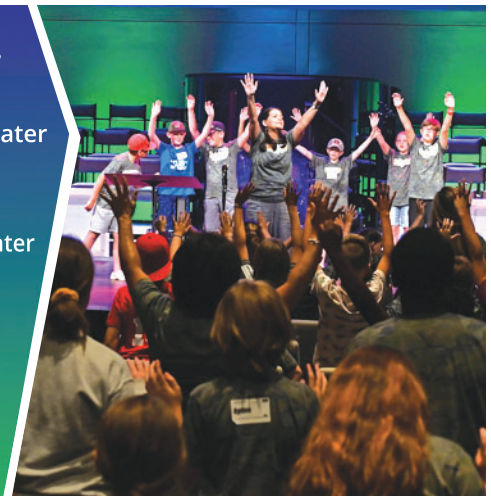
Upcoming Events for KIDS...

Tea Party for Moms & Daughters
Saturday, April 27 / 10:00 AM / Kids' Theater
For Girls K-5th Grade

Kids' Choir Spring Musical
Wednesday, May 8 / 6:30 PM / Worship Center

KidQuest: The Same God
June 3-6 / 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
For kids who've completed K-5th Grade

Kids' Art Camp
June 17-19 / 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
For kids who've completed K-5th Grade



Upcoming Events for STUDENTS...

Graduate Recognition Sunday
Sunday, May 19 / 9:00 AM / Worship Center
6:30 PM / Graduate Dinner / Gym

Middle School Whitewater Retreat
June 12-14 / Cleveland, Tennessee

High School Smoky Mountain Retreat
July 8-11 / Townsend, Tennessee



Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kathy Clayton, Larry Gillis, Rob Morris, Brett Yancey, Kyle Hughes, Tony Howell, Andrea Love, Tommy Thompson, Bob Cross, Bart Watts, Brinley Corbin, Margie Martin, Melissa Griffin, Thomas Lee, Martha Vaughn

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Vernon Tull, Pam Findley, Lanette Albright, Chris Burnette, Lloyd Matthews, Landon Cunningham, Max & Denise Dover, Lola-Ruth Adams, Wes Burnett, Tom Simmons, Danny Maddox, Frank & Peggy Brizendine, Wayne Wood, Anna Moore, Tom Bentley, Jerry Smith, Mallory Dunn Bramlett, Kathy Thompson, Susan Mize, Aiden Beck, Derell Reaves, Tony Fleming