



“Barabbas and Pilate”

After Jesus was tried and convicted for blasphemy at the palace of Caiaphas, Jesus was bound and taken to the Antonia Fortress that was the Roman governor’s residence and military garrison just adjacent to the Temple. The Roman military presence served as a reminder to the Jews of who was in charge. At this time, the Jews did not have the power to execute anyone. They needed the consent of Rome. Since Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, he was claiming to be the king or the Anointed One who would rule over all people. Rome had no place for an insurrectionist (one leading a rebellion). Taking Jesus to Pontius Pilate would force Jesus to either deny he was the Messiah or for Pilate to put Jesus to death for insurrection.

As Jesus stood before Pilate, he remained silent. This shows Jesus’ determination to die. He was not trying to get out of this. He was the Lamb of God, chosen to take away the sins of the world. This was all part of God’s plan and Jesus would follow it through with complete obedience. Jesus understood clearly that his death would bring about our salvation. Pilate had two prisoners before him this day: Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus Barabbas. Pilate offered to release one of them, and he likely thought the people would choose Jesus of Nazareth. But Barabbas would be the first sinner for whom Jesus would die. This is a beautiful picture of the substitutionary work of atonement that Jesus performed on the cross. We, like Barabbas, have been spared, for Jesus took the punishment we deserve.

History has pointed out that between the birth of Jesus and the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, there were between eight and thirteen self-proclaimed or hailed as messiahs. Some were thieves and other murderers. Some gathered a dozen while one gathered six thousand to join him in fighting Roman oppression. Each used the sword to drive out the Romans and establish a new kingdom of Israel. And each of these messiahs was sentenced to death.

When Jesus came into town, many were anticipating him to lead an armed rebellion. The fact that he didn’t angered many. On the contrary, Jesus taught people to love their enemies and pray for their persecutors. He called those who suffered blessed. He told people to seek peace at all costs. But most people saw freedom only coming through the sword and power. Jesus pointed out that sword doesn’t set anyone free; it is only by the power of the cross.

Jesus knew that victory over Rome would only come by sacrificial love, a love that can’t be defeated. Later, when Christians began to talk of a God who walked on this earth, who suffered and died for his own people, and then, in final victory, was raised from the death – this captivated them. They came in droves to follow Jesus. This is the power of the gospel. The Roman Empire was eventually conquered not by the sword, but by the cross of Jesus.

Who would you choose, Barabbas or Jesus? Would you pick one who is going to lead by force and restore you wealth and influence, or would you pick one who leads by loving their enemies and serving others? Truth be told, many of us would choose the path of strength and military might over the path of sacrificial love and peace. Let us seek the way of love.

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Mark

Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

2206 Tecoma Drive
Knoxville, TN 37917
865-523-1764

e-mail: office@acoc.comcastbiz.net
Website: www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org



Find us on:
Arlington Friends
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.

Guest Information

- There is a **staffed nursery** available for children under age 2. There is also a **parent/child training room** at the rear of the auditorium.
- An optional **children’s worship** is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. Please pick up your child after worship
- If you are visiting, **please complete a visitor card** so we have a record of your attendance.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sundays:
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Statistics

	weekly budget	\$4,062
Mar. 18	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	136	\$3,638

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God
Sunday, March 25, 2018

Elders: Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517
Gregg Summers Ph: 223-4515
David Tiller Ph: 607-1945

Deacons: Bud Norris - *Worship Participants*
Charles Owens - *Bldg & Grounds/Security/Treasurer*
Keith Tatum - *Education/Picture Board/Family Camp*
Ronnie Weldon - *Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg*

Minister: Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries: Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Kelly Hunter and family; Pat Ramsey and family; Danny Rider; Mark and Sammie French; Ben Cavin in Willow Ridge; John Burka; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Becky Johnson; Casey Owens; Tom & Anita Drinnen; Ben and Heather Ream; Garry & Karla Loftis.

Friends and Loved ones: Kathryn Norman's son, Gordon Norman; Bobby Cole's nephew, Michael Maddox; Shane Mink; Ronnie Weldon's brother-in-law; Edith Weldon's cousin; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Greg & Lisa Dyer; Heather Ream's mother, Linda; Janie Johnson's mom; Jason McDougal's mother & Tina's brother; Olivia Britt; Angie Langley's brother; David Hunter; Sheila Riggs co-worker, Amy Smith; Tracey Hart, Betty Weaver's daughter; Brad Owens undergoing tests.

Shut-ins: Lynda Elliott; Fred Galbreath; Edna Hullender; Peggy Mehlhorn; Kathryn Norman; Jessie Rutherford; Dan Trent.

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley; Tommy Drinnen.

Coming Soon

- Please take a moment to **pick up a card or two** to mail this week from the Card Ministry table. 
- **Fourth Sunday Fellowship** is today. All visitors are invited to join us for lunch.
- **Kingdom Kids** tomorrow, March 26, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Arlington.
- **Hope Central fundraising dinner** at Hardin Valley COC, Mon., Mar. 26, 6 p.m. See Tommy Drinnen for tickets.
- **Family Basketball**, this Wed., March 28, 8 to 9:30 p.m. 
- **Young Families Easter Egg Hunt**, this Sat., March 31, 11 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Please bring twelve candy-filled eggs per child. 
- **New Wed. night Bible class** on the topic of "**Dealing With Anxiety**" begins on Wed., April 4, 7 p.m. It will be facilitated by Wayne and Ada Shannon. Please sign up or let the Shannons know if you plan to attend so they can get you the material for the class.
- **Wedding shower for Mike Crowder and Rachel Lewis**, Sun., April 8, 2 to 4 p.m., fellowship hall and the guys are welcome to attend. They are registered at Target, Walmart, and Bed, Bath, and Beyond. 
- We will be **honoring our high school graduates** at a dinner on Sat., April 28, 6 p.m. 
- **Fifth Sunday Singing**, April 29, 6 pm

Family News

Sermon Topics Today
Sunday Morning:
Life of Jesus Series
Condemned by the Religious

Sunday Night:
NO Services tonight

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:
Jedidiah Cavin, Joshua Brackney
Kevin Gillispie, John David Potter
Bruce McQuaig, Jonathan Brackney

Opening Prayer: Will Simon
Preside at Table: Leland Price
Greeters: B Floyd & G Thompson
Nursery: A Riggs & M Shannon
Security: K Tatum & D Jones



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

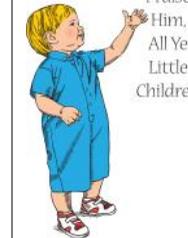
Mar 25 Ben Mallicoat
Mar 27 Sue Mink
Mar 27 Katherine Howell
Mar 30 Keith Tatum



Family Matters



Please update your directory:
Sue Bivens
PO Box 70147
Knoxville, TN 37938
Phone 865-805-0198



Praise
Him,
All Ye
Little
Children

Optional children's worship...

is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. Please pick up your child after worship.

Caring Cards Ministry

The Caring Cards Ministry provides cards for our sick and shut-ins, as well as friends and family members. Please see the information on the table in the hallway leading to the office for additional information. Your participation is needed to send cards as well as to provide information regarding those who would benefit from receiving cards.

Please talk to
John or Barbara Hoff
for more details.



Caring Cards