

# THE SHEPHERD'S LYRE

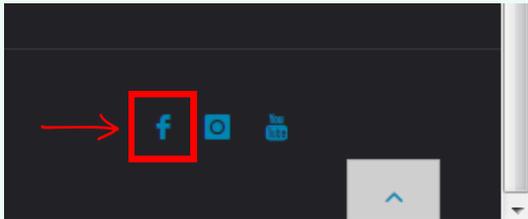
MARCH 20, 2020

## **\*\*\*Instructions to Watch Sunday's Online Sermon\*\*\***

Please join us Sunday, virtually, on Facebook as we go "live" for Worship! This is a great way to help keep us all connected and to share our joys and concerns. Please note that you do not need to be a Facebook member or have an account to watch on Sunday because our church page is public. You only need internet access.

### **Steps to Join Us "Live" Online on Sunday for Worship at 10:40:**

1. Click on our church website: [www.shccaustin.org](http://www.shccaustin.org)
2. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the Facebook Icon which looks like this:



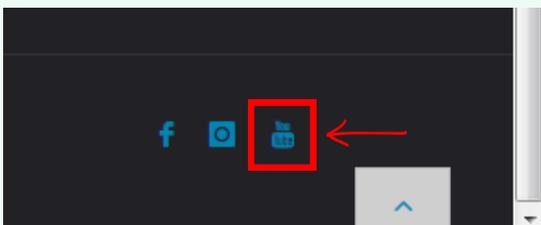
3. This will take you to our SHCC Facebook page
4. Simply, scroll down a short ways until you see our live Worship Service and view in real time.  
\*(You may have trouble with this step if you do not have a Facebook account, but technically you should be able to watch it. If you can't make it work, you can call the office next week, and we can talk it over.)\*

The recording will also be saved, so if you wish to watch it later on the SHCC Facebook page you can do that too.

### **Steps to View Our Worship Recording on YouTube**

Each Monday, we will post our Worship Service on our SHCC YouTube Page.

1. To find our YouTube Page, click on our website: [www.shccaustin.org](http://www.shccaustin.org)
2. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the YouTube Icon which looks like this:



3. Look for the recording posted with the date of worship you wish to view.

(If you would like to watch last week's Worship Service, simply go to our YouTube link and find the recording from 3/15/20).

## Easter Hams



We are still collecting money for Easter Hams for Bethany Food Pantry. If you would like to donate to this coming need, please mail us a check for them and put Easter Hams in the memo line. (6909 West Courtyard Dr., Austin, TX 78730).

## Kids Corner: Jesus Heals A Man Born Blind



John 9:1-41

Teaching Plan (BibleWise.com)

### **Hook**

Ask your child to come up with theories to answer the question, “Why do people get sick?” Encourage children to think of several answers.

**Say**, “When Jesus was on Earth, many people believed that if someone was sick it was because they had done something really wrong in secret. In our story today, Jesus meets a man who was born blind (he could never see) who people had always assumed was a terrible sinner because he suffered so much.”

*Active Listening: In the story, I want you to listen very carefully for the main parts of the story. In a little while I will ask you to act the story out, but you will have to do it without me telling you what comes next. So, listen very carefully.*

**Read: John 9:1-41** (and summarize) Be sure to engage the children with good story telling. I typically ask un-scripted questions to clarify points in the story and retain attention.

### **Quiz Game:**

- How did Jesus heal the blind man?
- What did the Pharisees say Jesus did wrong?
- What did the man’s parents say to the Pharisees?
- What did Jesus ask the man near the end?
- What was significant about Jesus healing this blind man?
- What did Jesus do to the blind man?
- Why do you think he spat on the ground? (the man was blind from birth – Gen 2 suggests man born of the dust or clay – Jesus is showing man’s origin is not of the dust – so go wash off that concept of birth)
- What happens after the man is healed?
- What do you think Jesus meant by the following verses? John 9:39-41

**Activity:** Act it Out

**Explanation:** This story is a powerful demonstration of the miracle working power of Jesus. It is also a theological illustration of spiritual vs. physical blindness. The beginning of the chapter sets the stage where Jesus describes himself as the light of the world. This theme is revisited at the end of the chapter as Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their spiritual blindness. The result is a story of mercy and judgment. When the Son of Man comes, he shows mercy to the humble but judgment to the proud.

The term Son of Man refers to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises of the coming Messiah King.

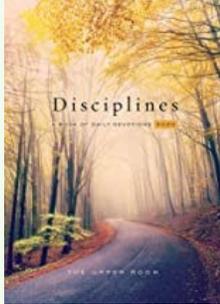
## Hands on Housing Postponed



Hands on Housing will not occur on April 4 as planned. They are postponing to a later date to be determined. This is due to the corona virus outbreak.

## Daily Lenten Devotional

Starting Monday, we will begin emailing you a daily devotional out of The Upper Room's 2020 *Disciplines*. During this time when we are encouraged to stay in our homes, we acknowledge how important it is to stay connected to God and to each other. These Daily Devotions are one way to make that happen. If you are interested in purchasing your own and reading with us at home with a physical book, simply look online for:



[The Upper Room Disciplines 2020: A Book of Daily Devotions](#)  
by Upper Room

We look forward to continuing to do life with you!

## The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 22

10:40 AM

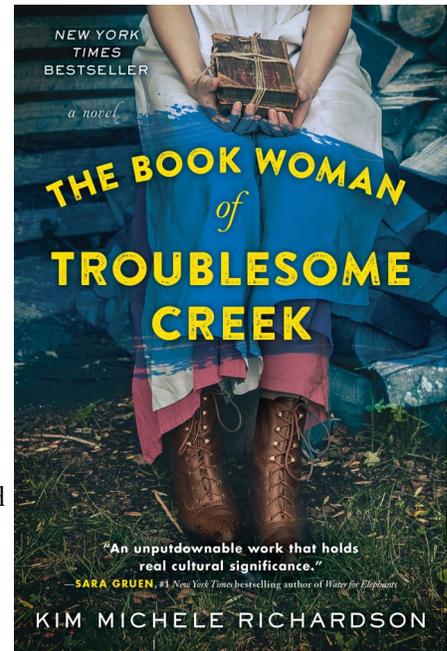
Online Live  
Worship Service



## Opportunities for Fellowship and Growth



- ◆ The **ORG (Old Retired Guys)** group is putting it's meetings on hold until further notice.
- ◆ If you have questions about the **Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir**, please contact Iain Sturrock at [Iain.shcc@gmail.com](mailto:Iain.shcc@gmail.com) for further details.
- ◆ The current **Book Club** selection is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. This is an historical novel set during the 1930's when President Roosevelt established the WPA and among other things, the Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project. The main character is one of those librarians, but she also happens to be one of the "blue people". She is one of a group who had originally come from France with methemoglobinemia, a congenital condition due to an enzyme deficiency. The story deals with her experiences as one of those librarians, but also the discrimination she faced as a "blue person". We hope to be discussing this on Monday, April 13, but we will have to see what the situation is as we move forward with this ever-changing virus situation. Keep on reading!



## Birthdays

Phillip Vaughn  
Jeff Lucich

March 23  
March 30



Please contact Christina in the office ([shccaustin@gmail.com](mailto:shccaustin@gmail.com)) to ensure your birthday and anniversary are on our lists!



## Who We Are

Each year, when the season of Lent rolls around, I ask myself if there is something extra—something unique—that we need to focus on. Lent gives us the chance to stop and consider who we are and who we're called to be as Christians. As mentioned during worship last Sunday, this year's lectionary passages are so rich there's no need for something extra to reflect on. The stories speak for themselves.

Our first sermon was called *Tried and True*. It was based on the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). Thomas Long once said, "We face temptation all the time. It hangs in our environment like the flu, always threatening to break down our resistance. We're always being 'tempted' to do what we know we shouldn't do." As I revisited this story, I recognized that the devil was not merely challenging Jesus with things he shouldn't do, he was interested in something deeper. He was tempting Jesus to deny his very identity as the Son of God. As I reflected further, I understood that this year's Lenten theme had presented itself. We're being challenged to embrace the theme of identity. As Jesus was the Son of God, we are the Children of God.

The following Sunday's story from the Gospel of John broadened our focus to reflect on the identity of God. The key verse was John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Our sermon was called *True Love* with the understanding that God's very essence is love. Christians are called to love God, love our neighbor, "and" ourselves.

Last Sunday, I encouraged you to worry less about individual temptations during Lent and focus more on who and whose you are. Last Sunday seems like a long time ago now. The notion of worrying less seems futile with the onset of the Coronavirus. Our world is racked with anxiety about our physical and financial health. We are tempted to panic, confused about what to do next. As we wade through the waters of this unique and uncertain season, our Lenten theme could not be more appropriate. The temptation to worry is inevitable right now. When it presents itself, consider another option. Remember who you are as children of God. Draw strength from your Christian identity. Fall back on the Loving God who will never forsake you, especially during trying times.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,  
Greg