**SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 25, 2022**

**Announcements for the Week** Buck Phillips

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Buck Phillips **Prayer-** Buck Phillips

**Song Leader-** Curran LaChappelle **Song Leader-** Eli Hickey

**-- Comments –** Eli Hickey **Comments –** Ben Wofford

**-- Assisting –** Ben Wofford **Communion –** Curran LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Assisting –** Mark Tally

**-- Assisting –** Ron Bailey

**-- Scripture –** Dean Shacklock **Scripture –** Josiah Phillips

**Closing Prayer-** John MacQuilliam **Closing Prayer**- Ron Bailey

**Wednesday Night – December 28, 2022**

**First Prayer–** Cliff Davis

**Song Leader** – Roger German

**Invitation –** Ben Wofford

**Closing Prayer –** Phillip Dorn

**December 25 Evening End of Year Prayer Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **December** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **25** | McIlvain | Please Be Considerate |
| **Jan 1** | Shacklock | Clean the area around your seat |

**Memory Verse – Hebrews 3:12**

**12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**

**Significance of Prayer Service**

**The elders and deacons want everyone to submit a prayer request, thanksgiving or spiritual concern for the Prayer Service this evening.**

**All too many times we lose sight of the power of prayer in our lives.**

**We have several things to be thankful for this year and important issues that may still not have been resolved.**

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***Schedule of Services***

**Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.**

**This bulletin is published weekly. Edited by Bill McIlvain.**

**Send any articles for the bulletin to** [**Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com**](mailto:Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com)

**Visit us on the web: www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com**



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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

**Deacons: Cliff Davis, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips**

**December 25, 2****022**

***Fire***

1. What strange phenomenon accompanied the plague of hail in Egypt?

2. What Mountain did the Lord descend upon in fire?

3. What two sons of Aaron were devoured by fire for making an improper offering to the Lord?

4. How did God deal with the Israelites who were complaining about their misfortunes in the wilderness?

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***Upside Down Traditions***

**By David Maxson**

***"You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." [Mark 7:8]***

Someone shared with me on Facebook a church sign that said: "PUT CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS." And then below that message was: "NO SERVICES ON SUNDAY."

That place is not alone. This is one of the rare years when Christmas day lands on Sunday, and so some assemblies (mostly large ones) have opted to have their traditional Christmas Eve services today and to cancel regular Sunday services tomorrow. 

***Upside Down Traditions***

**Continued**

Of course, we understand that Jesus said nothing about celebrating his birth. We have no instructions about when or how to celebrate that day. We don't even know the day he was born.

There is one event in Jesus' life that we are to commemorate: Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus himself told his disciples to remember his death in the Lord's supper (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-23; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). We know the disciples did this regularly on the first day of the week (Acts 2:42; 20:7).

Don't misunderstand, the birth of Jesus is one of the greatest days in human history. Angels rejoiced and shepherds observed in amazement as the Savior of all mankind came into this world. But we've got the emphasis all wrong. Our tradition has moved us off center. That's what happens when we promote tradition. It takes on a life of its own and inevitably takes the place of the Word of God in our hearts.

Let’s thank God for this and every season when we can be with family. Especially be thankful that Jesus humbled Himself to come into the world. More than that, we are thankful for the reason he came... to suffer and die for us on the cross for our salvation.

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***Having a Blue Christmas?***

**By Edwin Crozier**

I was all set to do a typical article on overcoming the holiday blues. I decided to provide you with cold, hard statistics when what to my wondering eyes should appear? An article saying I had it all wrong. The New York Times referenced an article published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* authored by the chairman of the psychiatry department at the University of Virginia.

The study said there is not one single solid indicator that depressions increase during the holidays. The number of suicides, psychiatric hospitalizations, psychiatric emergency room visits, outpatient psychiatric appointments and even letters to advice columnists all decrease in December.

What the study did show is the holiday season intensifies the major emotions we already face. In most cases, lovers love more, happy people are happier, angry people get angrier, sad people get sadder. No doubt, there are a number of people who despise the holidays. But these Grinches are in the minority.

One issue discussed was Anniversary Depression. That is, there are some who have experienced tragic events around the holidays. Naturally, the holidays are a sad reminder. Not to mention those who have recently suffered loss will inevitably experience sadness as they learn to face the holidays without their loved ones. However, on the whole, the holiday season does not cause greater depression than usual. Rather it magnifies what was in our hearts already.

The holiday season is a unique time for us. It is a great microscope, magnifying our nature. If something is amiss this time of year, our first response should not be to chalk it up to a “Blue Christmas.” Rather, we should examine what this means about us all the time.

Are we fussing with our siblings a lot around Christmas? That says something about what we think about them all year round. Are we really depressed? That is likely not just a response to the season. Are we on edge and anxious? We probably have temper issues all the time that lie beneath the surface. Are we worried about money? That is probably not because we only spend too much money around Christmas.

Read Philippians 4:6-9. When we rely on God, follow His will and think on His things, the God of peace will be with us. The peace that passes understanding will guard our hearts and minds. If that peace is not guarding our hearts and minds in December, it is probably not just holiday blues.

We need to take a closer look at God. We need to examine what choices we are making all year round. We need to consider where our minds focus usually. When we get that under control, we won’t be blue over a white Christmas.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Fire that ran along the ground [Exodus 9:23]

2. Sinai [Exodus 19:18]

3. Nadab & Abihu [Leviticus 10:1-2]

4. His fire devoured them [Numbers 11:1-3]

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