**SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 24, 2023**

**Announcements for the Week Buck Phillips**

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader**- Mark Tally **Song Leader**- Bill McIlvain

**-- Comments** – Connor LaChappelle **Comments** – John MacQuilliam

**-- Assisting –** Ernesto Almazan **Communion** – Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting** – Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting** – Jared Davis

**-- Assisting** – Gary Scott

**-- Scripture** – Brandon Anderson **Scripture** – Dan Woodward

**Closing Prayer-** Eli Hickey **Closing Prayer**- Russ Sollars

**Wednesday Night – December 27, 2023**

**First Prayer–** Phillip Dorn

**Song Leader** – Cohen Esque

**Invitation –** Eli Hickey

**Closing Prayer –** TBD for Andy

**December 24 Evening - Prayers & Song Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **December** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **24** | Shepherd | Please Be Considerate |
| **31** | Goddard | Clean the area around your seat |

**Memory Verse – Luke 6:46**

**But why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not so the things I say?**

**Good Thoughts**

**Want to know how I as a man know that I am growing older? Yesterday a young lady tried to open the door for me! As I grow older, may I grow more gracious and Godly each day (Titus 2:2). – Mike Peck**

**You can demand courtesy but you have to earn respect. ― Lawrence Goldstone**

**We must be as courteous to a man as we are to a picture, which we are willing to give the advantage of a good light. ― Ralph Waldo Emerson**

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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 Office@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 24, 2****023**

***The Biblical Greenhouse***

1. What two herbs does Jesus say the Pharisees would tithe?

2. What wood was used for building the temple after the exile in Babylon?

3. What wood was used to make the table in the tabernacle for holding the sacred bread?

4. What leaves were thrown down in front of Jesus on His entry into Jerusalem?

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***Be Kind This Christmas***

**By Edwin Crozier**

I know the title sounds a little bit odd. Generally, we have the idea that everyone is already a bit kinder around the holidays. We’re all in the mood for giving. We’re a bit more generous. We offer well wishes more readily.

All that is true. But amazingly, at the same time, my experience has been that people also get a bit less kind at the same time. Because we are in a rush to get to the store and purchase that perfect present we react more harshly if someone cuts us off in traffic. Because the item we wanted to purchase is out of stock, we get a little angrier. Because somebody else got what we wanted, we get a little more jealous. Because we have so much to do and so little time to do it, we get a little less patient. 

***Be Kind This Christmas***

**Continued**

With all the pressures, time constraints, expectations and financial burdens at this time of year, we can actually forget that we are supposed to be kind to others. ***Ephesians 4:32*** says, ***“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you”***. While this verse speaks about “one another” these are good principles to follow with everyone, whether they are Christians or not.

***Matthew 7:12*** says, ***“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets”.*** When you accidentally cut someone off in traffic, how do you want them to treat you? Do the same for others. When you accidentally bump into someone in the store, how do you want them to treat you? Do the same for others. When you get someone a gift, how do you want them to treat you? Do the same for them.

Times of bigger pressures are not times when we should expect God to look the other way and make exceptions. These are times for us to rely on Him even more so we can live by His will no matter what. We are called to do this even when others do not reciprocate.

Make a concerted effort this holiday season to keep up your patience and kindness. Treat others as creations of God who are struggling with all these pressures as well. When you do that, you will likely treat them in a much better way. Not to mention, you will develop more fulfilling relationships with the people in your life, connecting with them through your kindness rather than separating from them because of your bitterness.

Let’s remember that we are Christians all the time, not just when it is easy. We’re in the pressure pot this month; let’s make sure we don’t get cooked.

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***The Walk Of Faith***

**By David Maxson**

***And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief. [Mark 6:5-6]***

A few years ago, our family had the opportunity to visit Toronto. While there we went to the CN Tower, the tallest building in the world (1,815 feet). At 1,122 feet high there is an observation deck where you can not only look out the windows at the city, there is a glass floor where you can look straight down to the ground!

I am terrified of heights. It was not easy for me to step out onto that glass floor to look down (and even then I didn't stay there to savor the experience). While my children jumped up and down on the floor I gingerly moved my foot out there and quickly moved off of it after I had looked down.

How was I able to overcome my fears? It was faith. I put my faith in the engineers of that building, the builders who put it together, the materials that were employed to go up that elevator and walk out on that observation deck.

If we want to reach new spiritual heights, we can only get there by faith. If we're not fully trusting in Jesus, then our prayer life will be limited. We will not read and study God's Word as fervently. Our evangelism will lack consistency and zeal. Faith is what prevents us from stepping out of our comfort zone and reaching upward to higher ground.

The good news is that it is through Bible study, prayer, and evangelism that our faith grows. The longer I stood on that observation tower the more relaxed I became. The more we walk with Jesus in this life by listening to him, talking with him, and sharing him with others; the more we learn to trust him and increase our ability to receive the blessings he alone can give.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Mint & Anise [Luke 11:42]

2. Cedar [Ezra 3:7]

3. Acacia [Exodus 25:23-30]

4. Palm Leaves [John 12:13]

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