



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Foster Care Awareness Sunday** - On Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> we are bringing in Environmental Alternatives (EA) a local foster care agency here in Tracy. Come and meet the Social Worker and find out how you and your family can help either by becoming a foster care family or how to support foster families in our area. She will be available after both services. She will also be available during a luncheon in the Student Center starting at 12:15. To sign up for the luncheon go to the Southwinds app or contact Pastor Chris Martinez at (760) 685-5152.
- **Volunteers Needed** - We need volunteers in the following areas: Volunteer Captains, Greeters, Ushers, Levites, Parking Attendants and ERT. If, interested please contact Debbie Knapp at: [dknapp@southwinds.org](mailto:dknapp@southwinds.org).
- **Adult/Student Volunteers Needed for Childcare** - We currently have a need on weeknights for childcare assistance - especially on Wednesday CARE night and on Friday nights with our Celebrate Recovery ministry. We offer both paid positions and service hours. Ages 14+ invited to apply. Please contact Pastor Chris Martinez at [cmartinez@southwinds.org](mailto:cmartinez@southwinds.org) or by phone/text at 760-685-5152 for more information.

## MY STORY

**Have we ever been concerned with how we are going to die?**

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## HAVE EVERYONE READ:

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.**  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
From there, he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### DIGGING DEEPER

**Have a Volunteer Read: Luke 1:30-35; Philippians 2:6-7**

**Point 1: Conceived and Born: God became ONE OF US.**

“The incarnation is the Christian doctrine that God became a human— that Jesus the Son put on human flesh, setting aside all his rights and privileges, so he could become one of us.” – **Michael Nolen**

“The incarnation means the creator of everything that ever existed, entered his own creation... that this omnipotent, omniscient God, limited himself to a specific time and place in the first century world. The infinite became finite. It's the idea that the supernatural became natural, that Jesus was not only fully God, but he became fully human. This is a reality we cannot fully understand in our finite minds, but that shouldn't surprise us, since we're trying to understand the infinite God.”

– **Michael Nolen**

**How comfortable are we with not fully comprehending God becoming flesh through his Son, Jesus?**

“When you look at other religions in terms of salvation, you’ll notice they have many similarities with each other, but stark contrasts with Christianity. Buddha says you can get salvation through enlightenment. Muhammad says if you really seek salvation, you can get it through submission and obedience. So, Buddhism and Islam don’t agree on how to find salvation, but they do agree on this... that YOU can find and achieve salvation. That’s the exact opposite of Christianity. Christianity says the darkness in your heart is so dark, you can’t do anything about it. Your sin is so deep and so devastating you’ll never be able to fix it. You cannot save yourself. You are utterly helpless and hopeless.” – **Michael Nolen**

**Why is it in Christianity that we cannot save ourselves?**

**As Christ followers we know that “our hearts are so dark that we cannot save ourselves”, so why do we keep trying?**

**Do we find ourselves and our thought process aligned with Buddhist or Islamic approach to salvation? If so, how do we need to change that?**

**Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 5:6-11; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23  
Point 2: Suffered and Died: Jesus experienced DEATH FOR US.**

“Think about it. We live in a very secular Western culture. How could the death of a middle eastern man from 2000 years ago matter to us? In fact, it seems kind of strange to people outside the church that Christians are so obsessed with this man Jesus. If we could get outside ourselves for a few moments, just look at it. We’re not just obsessed with him. We’re obsessed with his death. Where else in the world are people so obsessed with one person’s death? To make it worse, it’s not a normal death, but an incredibly gory and horrible death. And we sing about it all the time, right? We sing about someone’s blood! That’s weird. We call his death wonderful and good and amazing.” – **Michael Nolen**

**How can we help people outside the church understand the purpose of Jesus’ death on the cross without sounding weird?**

“In these verses, (Romans 5: 6-11) Paul calls us powerless and ungodly sinners. But look at the last 4 words in Romans 5:8. **Christ died for us.**” – **Michael Nolen**

**How does knowing that we are described as powerless and ungodly sinners, help us point people to Jesus and what he has done on the cross?**

“Balance... Some of us need to meditate on forgiveness, and some of us need to meditate on the weight of sin. It brings us back to the center.” – **Michael Nolen**

**What are the dangers of either thinking that we are worse than we are versus thinking that we are better than we are?**

“That changes the way we love each other. It changes the way we forgive each other, in fact, the bible is very clear if we are not forgiving each other, if we allow hurts to distance us from others, even to isolate ourselves from them, in a futile attempt to keep ourselves safe .... It means we haven't truly understood Jesus' death and suffering.”

– Michael Nolen

**How would knowing and understanding Jesus' forgiveness help us in forgiving others?**

## **APPLICATION**

MEMORIZE: Parts 1-4

### **The Apostles' Creed**

Part 1:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of Heaven and earth.

Part 2:

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

Part 3:

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried  
He descended to the dead.

Part 4:

On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

## **PRAISES**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**