November 7
Greetings, DGCC Family.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:1-5).

“Through Him all things were made;” Jesus speaks at Creation and the universe roars into existence: “He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name” (Psalm 147:4).

“Through Him all things were made;” Jesus speaks at Creation and the expanse of the heavens fills the sky: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament displays His handywork” (Psalm 19:1).

“Through Him all things were made;” Jesus speaks at Creation and the earth and the seas take form and are filled with life: “The earth is the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas and established it upon the floods” (Psalm 24:1-2, KJV).

Jesus - eternal, infinite, and unlimited, speaks at Creation, and then at the appointed time, becomes part of Creation. God incarnate. Brought to human life only to be brought to human death, and then raised to eternal life by the power of the Holy Spirit so that we too can one day join Him in the experience of eternal life.

That is the Gospel. The Good News. That is the Word of God, authored by the Word of God.

IHS,
Pastor Lou
November 8

Grace and peace to you this day.

Jesus meets the Pharisee Nicodemus, who desperately wants to believe what his heart is telling him: the Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah. This is how John the disciple records the opening of this scene in his gospel:

“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” (John 3:1-4).

Nicodemus goes to see Jesus at night. He could have sent an assistant, or a student, or some other underling. But he goes personally to examine Jesus himself. And Jesus welcomes him. He teaches him. He does not reject him. He even encourages him: “You are Israel’s teacher…and you do not understand these things?” (3:10). This sounds like Jesus is admonishing Nicodemus, but in fact, He is doing the opposite. He is saying: “Believe what you have learned during your entire life. Trust what you are seeing with your eyes. Trust what you are hearing with your ears. Trust in the words of the holy Scriptures that you have dedicated your life to studying. Trust what you are feeling in your heart. Have faith…because it is true.”

The same is true of us: Jesus invites us to meet with Him personally. To hear, to see, to feel, and to trust. And to believe…because it is true, and it is Truth.

IHS,

Pastor Lou
Grace and peace to you this day.

The Gospel of John, written by the disciple John, is a first-hand, eyewitness account of the life and ministry of Jesus the Messiah. It records His words, His deeds, His miracles, His death, and His resurrection.

One of the recurring themes in John’s writing is the relationship between God the Son, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit. One of the most direct instructions Jesus gives the disciples has to do with this relationship:

“Then they asked Him, ‘What must we do to do the work God requires?’ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent” (John 6:28-29).

The religions of the world seek to answer the question “What do we have to do to satisfy (fill in the blank with your deity of choice). The one true faith answers that question simply and directly: No work of humankind can earn your way into heaven. No act of kindness, no good deed, no charitable act grants us eternity. Pleasing the Almighty does not come from the work we do, it comes from whom we believe. While good deeds flow from this belief, we first must believe, otherwise our good works become acts of hollow piety.

God the Father personally sent God the Son to die for us and be raised again by God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus answered the disciples’ question directly 2,000 years ago, just as He does for us today. What must we do as children of God to please our Father in heaven?

Simply this: Believe.

IHS,

Pastor Lou
November 10

Greetings, DGCC Family.

I read an article recently about a group of people in New York who were protesting the move to Daylight Savings Time. One person even wears two watches, one of which is set to DST and one of which is not. Sounds pretty confusing to me.

We humans are quite bound by matters of time. We like to operate on a schedule. When I was working downtown and taking the Metra train, my work week was governed by the train schedule. Train commuters even have their own language: “I’ll be on the 7:32 tonight” or “have to leave now to get the last express out of downtown.” If you don’t get an express, you’ll be stuck on “the milk run.” And so on.

Jesus, however, is not bound by time. As God, He is infinite, eternal, and everlasting. Early church theologians wrestled with the eternal nature of Jesus, though Jesus Himself answers this question as recoded in John’s Gospel:

“I tell you the truth,’ Jesus answered, ‘before Abraham was born, I am’” (John 8:58).

Notice here that Jesus does not say, “before Abraham was born, I was.” In saying “I am,” He is invoking both His eternal nature and His divinity. There is no “was,” no past tense” with Jesus. He is, not was.

Additionally, in saying “I am,” He is invoking the words of God the Father to Moses in the book of Exodus:

“God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, the name you shall call me” (Exodus 3:14-15).

The eternal name of Jesus brings eternal life through Jesus. As we said yesterday, our only task is this: Believe.

IHS,

Pastor Lou
November 11

Happy Veterans Day, everyone, and a heartfelt thanks to all those who have served our nation in the armed forces. Today’s musical devotional is in honor of them. As always, turn up the volume and enjoy.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRUjr8EVgBg

IHS,
Pastor Lou