

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Near to the Heart of God

Cleland Boyd McAfee penned the song “Near to the Heart of God” in 1902. Resources say two of his infant nieces died from diphtheria, which event motivated the writing of this hymn. Diphtheria is a bacterial infection that is rare today because of immunization. According to the Mayo Clinic, “Diphtheria typically causes a sore throat, fever, swollen glands and weakness. But the hallmark sign is a sheet of thick, gray material covering the back of your throat, which can block your airway, causing you to struggle for breath” (www. MayoClinic.org). Two places come to mind when I think of being near to the heart of God: (1) Heaven; (2) The church. According to the hymn, there are several blessings located “near to the heart of God”.

**“A place of quiet rest.”** Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Now that I know the history behind the song, I cannot help but to think of the loud and restless nights that may have ensued while these two young girls suffered from the throes of diphtheria.

**“A place where sin cannot molest.”** This may be my favorite line in the entire song. I am reminded that disease, death, and decay are all results of sin (Romans 5:12). In Revelation 21, we are given a beautiful glimpse of the glorified church in Heaven, when “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4). Furthermore, if today we are walking “in the light, as he is in the light,” Jesus’ blood continually cleanses our sins and we remain “near to the heart of God” (cf. 1John 1:7).

**“A place of comfort sweet.”** When our children are sick or hurting, our first priority is often to seek comfort for them. Furthermore, by far the greatest and truest comfort is only found “near to the heart of God.” Paul wrote, “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort; Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

**“A place where we our Savior meet.”** In another hymn, we sing: “What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see; When I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace; When He takes me by the hand, and leads me to the Promise Land; What a day, glorious day that will be.”

**“A place of full release.”** “He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new” (Revelation 21:5). We can rest assured those two baby girls no longer have diphtheria. And, while it pains us to imagine what the parents endured in their loss, it comforts us that the baby girls obtained full relief from their suffering.

**“A place where all is joy and peace.”** Paul wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing; But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippian 4:4-7; cf. Revelation 21:2-4).

The refrain reads: “O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us, who wait before Thee, near to the heart of God.” Is Jesus Christ your Savior? Is Jesus Christ your Redeemer? Have you made arrangements and done what is necessary to be “near to the heart of God”?

—Clifton Angel

### **Prayer Request**

**Glenda McMillan** (Carolyn Siler's sister) had a rough time with the flu and is in need of prayers for strength and wellness. Keep Glenda in your prayers.

Prayers have been requested for **Mildred Lee**, who has been sick off and on recently and has very low energy. Please keep Mildred in your prayers.

Lindsey Wells has requested prayers for her uncle, **Wes Goodman**, who is in the hospital with a staph infection in his foot and fluid around his heart and issues with high blood sugar.

### **Concerns Update**

**Sylvia Campos** is still having pain in her hand but it seems to be improving. Sylvia will undergo some physical therapy for her hand.

**Elaine Huntington** is still experiencing stomach pain. She will be going through additional testing to find out what the problem is. The doctors are thinking that there's an underlying cause for her pain.

### **Prayer List**

Dr. Hank Abrams; Sheila Alcazar; Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Philip Garza; Hattie Gilmore; Doug Guynn; Lon Howard; Vanessa Machuca; Ora McAfee; Jessica McQuisten; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; Daniel Reyes; David Ryan; Lisa Salas; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; Carolyn Wilkerson; Charles Wood; John Wood, Julia York.

### **Eisenhower's Shut-ins**

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna Callendar; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

### **Youth**

Bible Quiz Question ... (fill in the blank)

The title Pilate placed on Jesus' cross was written in three languages... \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. What were the three?

Last Week's Quiz Answer...

Michal, (King Saul's daughter) was married to David.

### **Events**

Watch **"In Search of the Lord's Way"** Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

### **Office News**

Today, we will have a **"Special Contribution"** for the wild fires in Texas.

### **Thank you**

To my Church Family, with a warm appreciation; a note to say "thanks" to my brothers and sisters for my beautiful "get well" card. It made my day (feel better). I told old arthritis it will not win. I'll fight against it til the end. With God's help, I'll be ok soon and back to worship with my church family. Thank you again! God bless you all and keep you safe always.

Love you in Christ, Hattie

### **They Shall Be Satisfied**

Have you ever noticed how a dog is always hungry? Even if we fed our dogs only an hour ago, they are ready for more food if we will offer it. But there is a limit beyond which a dog is satisfied. My father used to have a rather large dog which stayed in our backyard. On this dog's birthday, daddy bought several cans of dog food. The first can was inhaled in about five seconds. The second can was offered to the dog about five minutes later. It disappeared quite rapidly. Five minutes later the third can was opened. It took a little longer, but it was eaten. The fourth can was eaten rather slowly. Finally, when my father opened the fifth can and called, the dog simply laid in the backyard and wagged his tail. He did not bother

to try to eat anymore. He was satisfied.

Jesus said: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matthew 5:6). Hunger and thirst are two of the strongest drives known to mankind. What you have an appetite for will be the determining factor deciding with what you will be filled. If you are extremely thirsty, you will probably fill yourself with water. If you have an overpowering desire for chocolate candy, you will probably eat some.

It is significant that Jesus uses hunger and thirst to illustrate how much we ought to strive for righteousness. If you really want to be a righteous person who obeys God and lives a life of godliness and purity, that will be the result. You will be able to overcome temptation. You will not be distracted by inferior goals. If you want your life filled with spiritual goodness, God will not hold back what you need. Just as my father was able to give his dog all the food he could want, God can satisfy our spiritual longing. God is able. The only question is: “Do we long for God?” (Psalm 42:1-2).

—Joe Stephen Williams

### April 10, 2022

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Sermon  
Opening Prayer  
Scripture  
Second Prayer  
Closing Prayer

### A.M.

Jeff Wesson  
Oliver Hernandez  
Allen Weakland  
Jeff Wesson  
Craig Wesson  
Larry May  
Jr. Munoz

### P.M.

Jeff Wesson  
Jacob Carson  
Allen Weakland  
Jeff Wesson  
John Wood  
Bill Ryan  
Gary Loving

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading

Don Easlon  
Jon Roemisch  
Tom Sorenson  
Kirk McFarland

Scot Straw  
Communion  
(In Library)

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547—*Deacon:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 *Pulpit:* David Ryan 512-924-0983—*Table:* Scot Straw 288-4533—*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson 934-4646— *Collections:* David & Scot

### Sunday AM

“Leadership Reminders”  
(Judges 8:1-9)

### Sunday PM

“Responsibility—The Heart of Moral Matters”  
(I Thessalonians 4:9-12)

### Our Records

Bible Class... 72  
Morning Worship... 105  
Evening Worship ...58  
Wednesday...58  
Contribution...\$4, 994.75