

Wait on the Lord

April 21, 2024

Rev. Jeffrey O. Smith

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**Offertory
(Children put out the Candles)**

**Discussion
Closing of the Word**

**Please join us on Zoom
at 11:00am Sunday for a discussion.**

Interested in helping out? We need you!

Helping roles include set up/clean up, ushering, greeting, refreshments, acting and lay reading. Contact Nina at nina.deweese@brynathynchurch.org.

Please note: This service is livestreamed and recorded.

You and your family may be on camera, and your comments will be part of the livestream and recording.

Musicians: Seraphim Graham Bier, Pamela Henderson, Shawn Rose Scott Russell, Charity Warwick

Sound/Video: Gareth Mergen

And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." Mark 4:26-29

But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew *their* strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Wait on the Lord;
Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the Lord! Psalm 27:14

In every motion and every action there is an element that is active and another element that is responsive. The active element acts, and then the responsive element acts in response. As a result, a single action comes forth from the two elements. A mill is activated in this manner by a waterwheel; a carriage by a horse; a motion by a force; an effect by a cause; a dead force by a living force; and in general an instrumental cause by a principal cause. Everyone knows that each pair together completes a single action. In the case of goodwill and faith, the Lord acts, and we act in response. There is an activity of the Lord that prompts our human response. The power to do good things comes from the Lord. As a result, there is a will to act that seems to be our own, because we have free choice. Either we can take action together with the Lord and by doing so, form a partnership with him; or else we can take action drawing on the power of hell, which is outside the Lord, and by doing so, separate ourselves from him. Actions of ours that are in harmony with the Lord's actions are what I mean here by "cooperation." True Christianity 576

We can be regenerated only gradually. Each and every thing that exists in the physical world serves as an illustration of this fact. A seedling does not grow up into a mature tree in a single day. First there is a seed, then a root, then a shoot, which develops into a trunk; then branches come out of that and develop leaves and finally flowers and fruit. Wheat and barley do not spring up ready for harvest in a single day. A home is not built in a single day. We do not become full grown in a single day; reaching wisdom takes us even longer. The church is not established-let alone perfected-in a single day. We will make no progress toward a goal unless we first make a start. People who have a different conception than this of regeneration know nothing about goodwill or faith, or how each of these qualities grows as we cooperate with the Lord. All this makes clear that regeneration progresses analogously to the way we are conceived, carried in the womb, born, and brought up. True Christianity 586

Announcements

Bryn Athyn Church Annual Meeting

April 24, 7:30 pm (Heilman Hall, doors open at 7:00 pm)

Get the latest update on our church and school, and elect new board trustees. All are welcome, but only members are eligible to vote. **Members please arrive 20 minutes early** to check in and receive your ballot.

Stephen Ministry Commissioning Service

April 28, 10:15 am (within the Informal Service)

Eight new Stephen Ministry trainees who have completed their 50-hour training will join our other Stephen Ministers to support people in our congregation going through difficult times.

Moms and Moms-to-Be Enrichment Evenings

April 30, 7:00-9:00 pm

Topic: *Infertility, Miscarriage and Loss* with Brooke Childs and Cheryl Cooper. Moms of all ages are welcome to join us for an evening with other moms to find support, information, inspiration, and connection! Contact Nina with any interest or questions – nina.deweese@brynathynchurch.org.

New Church Day Gift for Pre-K Girls in the Bryn Athyn Community

If you are part of the Bryn Athyn community and have a daughter who will be starting Kindergarten in the fall, and would like a specially outfitted doll for her New Church Day gift, please contact Wendy Cooper at wcooper627@gmail.com in advance. We only provide for those who requested. Dolls are available in three ethnicities if you would like to specify. The dolls can be picked up after the New Church Day pageant.

Giant Foods and Weis Gift Cards

The Church Office is selling Giant and Weis gift cards. These organizations donate 5% of each gift card purchase. To learn more or for questions, contact Liza at 215-947-6225 x200.

Want to get involved? To receive emails, volunteer, or learn more about the New Church, scan the QR code or visit www.brynathynchurch.org/signup to fill out a form.



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