



Church *matters*

**Quarterly Newsletter of East Glenville Community Church
Summer 2021**

**Outdoor Worship
June 6 - June 27**

**Celebration Sunday & Picnic
June 13th**

**Vacation Bible School
June 28-July 1**

PASTOR MITCH

The Only One Who Could Open the Scroll

Revelation 5:5 “And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

You may know the old country song by Johnny Lee, “Lookin’ For Love.” He sings out that he has been searching out love in all the wrong places, and seeking it in too many faces. Likewise, in its long history, humanity has been looking for a Savior in all the wrong places and in too many faces. We keep looking for some person who can bring a fix to the multitude of problems we face. We keep believing that some general, or politician, or wealthy benefactor, or spiritual guru will have the answer we have been looking for all along. We keep getting let down. We keep watching what looked to be a hopeful future crash and burn as the hero we had turned to instead turned out to be as corrupt as all the others. That truth is what Revelation 5 is illustrating for us in John’s encounter up in the heavenly throne room.

Revelation 5:1 - “Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. “

The vision starts with a scroll. Not an ordinary scroll, but one sealed with seven wax seals and being held in the hand of the Almighty. The Seven-Sealed Scroll represents God’s plan for redemption and the outworking of His Salvation for humanity. Despite our sin and brokenness God has not given up on people. He made human beings in His Image that we

might be in relationship with Him, that we may know and be known by our God. However, any plan for restoration has to account for the way that sin has woven itself into the core of our soul. Salvation will require more than merely an exercise of power or a gift of divine forbearance. We need a Savior who can put *Humpty Dumpty* back together again after our fall into sinfulness.

Revelation 5:2-4 - “And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.”

When it says that no one is worthy to open the scroll, the text is declaring that no created being is able to fulfill God’s plan of salvation for mankind. Many have come claiming they could do it, and that if only people will listen to them then they could lead humanity into a new golden age. All have failed, and most of those human saviors did a lot more damage than good. No person living on earth could bring salvation. No angelic power in heaven can fix the problem of a sin-steeped people. No one who has lived in the past and is now under the earth has ever had the answer we needed. When this truth sinks into John’s heart he begins to weep. Are we forever doomed? Is there any hope?

Revelation 5:5- “And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals. 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain...”

“It is then we are told to look upon the solution that God has provided. We can let aside weeping and behold the One who can fulfill God’s Plan of salvation for mankind. Jesus is introduced as the one who has conquered. He is the Lion of Judah, and Root of David, meaning he is the Messiah descended from King David that the Jewish people had been waiting to come for centuries. John is told to look at a lion but when he looks he instead sees a lamb that had been slain. Jesus is the ruling King, yet he brought salvation not through divine power but by “humbling himself, even unto death on a cross.” He did what no other savior before would ever do, he came not to demand service but to give his life as a ransom for many. By this he is worthy to open the scroll. He is able to give forgiveness and open the door for eternal life. He is able to move forward God’s plan of salvation.

This scene in John’s vision is given to remind us as God’s People not to put our trust in human “saviors.” There are still soldiers, politicians, wealthy men, and gurus who declare they are the only ones who can fix what is wrong with the world. Let us beware of their promises. Let us remember that we have put our faith in Christ alone. God’s Plan of salvation is moving ahead. As C.S. Lewis would say, “Aslan is on the move!” Jesus is reigning and working through His Church to bring the good news to lost people. God in His sovereignty and divine patience has allowed injustice and evil to continue for a time. He is patient and allowing time for an ever greater number to hear the good news and turn from their ways to Jesus Christ. Yes! the darkness persists and sometimes it feels overwhelming, but the light shines all the brighter in the darkness. God has chosen to put the light of Christ in the humble jars of clay of normal-looking believers, as we seek to follow our

Lord through the ups and downs of life. We know this world is still looking for saviors in all the wrong places, let us gently and persistently proclaim the One Name given by which mankind can be saved.

Rejoicing in Him, Pastor Mitch.

Summer Sermon Series:
I Thessalonians: Ready for the Day

We start a new sermon series on June 6th. We will spend the summer going through the first letter Paul the apostle wrote to the believers in Thessalonica. Paul talks about how these believers came to faith amidst adversity, and how they are to live out their faith in their city. The letter addresses the challenges of daily living in a pagan society. The letter instructs Christians to live in such a way that they are ready for the day when Jesus returns.

Christianity 101 -
Next Steps New Member Class

We had a good number of folks go through the Christianity 101 class this spring and we are now transitioning to the Next Steps New Member class. The Next Steps class will get more specific for EGCC and about what it means to be a member of this congregation. If you are interested in becoming a member at East Glenville but missed the Christianity 101 class this time, fear not we plan to offer it again in the winter.

Next Steps Class –

June 6, 13, 20 – Sunday’s at 9am.

ELDERS

Have You Asked ?

The word of God makes it clear to us that God understands our needs, wants and desires and encourages us to pray.

Matthew 7:7 Tells us to ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. Mark 11:24 adds that if you pray, ask and believe that you have received them they shall be granted to you. John 16:24 encourages us to ask in His name and you will receive, that your joy may be made full.

If you are like me I am constantly asking God for something. And that's okay. I pray for a myriad of things for my family, friends, neighbors, church and that list goes on and on. And yes, I do pray for myself. Our Father encourages us to pray without ceasing.

So many times I get busy praying that I forget to ask God how can I serve you? What do you want me to do for others? When you do ask that question be ready, for our God will respond. He may not respond exactly in the way you had thought or expected but he will answer you. God's timing and method of communication will be perfect.

I want to encourage you to start this day by asking our loving and gracious Lord how can I be of service. Then let the words of John 15:7 fill your mind. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it shall be done for you.

Chuck Capeci, Elder

ONLINE EGCC DIRECTORY

Instructions for viewing the EGCC online directory:

Go to www.servantkeeper.com/directory/egcc

Password 335SaratogaRd

Click on Family which will give you a list of all the families in the directory, including a picture if there is one. If you click on the individual directory there are no pictures.

To request a printed copy contact the office. Copies must be picked up at the office. Suggested donation for a printed copy is \$5.

WORSHIP NOTES . . .

The Worship Team just finished a study of the little book 'Sing!' written by Keith & Kristyn Getty. Over the course of the past several months we've met bi-weekly on Zoom to consider what it means to sing, and to lead the church in congregational singing. These words were some that encouraged us:

“Together . . . The best most perfect way that we have of expressing a sweet concord of mind to each other is by music.”

YOUTH GROUP

Regular Youth Group ends June 9th

Recognize our Seniors on Celebration Sunday, June 13th

This Celebration Sunday we will be recognizing Catie Reed, Hannah Seiz and Joylyn Sweet as they graduate from High School and embark on their future endeavors! We hope that you can join us on Sunday June 13th to celebrate them.

We look forward to partnering with Faith Baptist and Grace Chapel one more time this school year with our Collab Summer Party at Grace Chapel Friday, June 11th from 6-9 pm. There will be food! Bring a swimsuit and towel. Invite a friend!

I look forward to holding events during the summer as we continue to walk with Jesus as a group, continuing to learn and grow throughout the summer!

Nick Feliciano





When: June 28 - July 1, 2021 **9 am to noon**

Where: East Glenville Community Church

What: Music, Activities, Lessons, Games & Snacks!

Who: Students entering Kindergarten - entering 7th gr.

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway!

June 4th - registration deadline. Drop off/mail form to:

EGCC, 335 Saratoga Road, Glenville, NY 12302

Church office: (518)399-3151 email: children@egcchurch.org

www.EGCCHURCH.org

Space is limited! Be sure to enroll ASAP

Walk-in registration not guaranteed

Name _____ Grade completed 6/2021 ____ M/F ____ Allergy _____

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Name _____ Grade completed 6/2021 ____ M/F ____ Allergy _____

Name _____ Grade completed 6/2021 ____ M/F ____ Allergy _____

*If your child has a food allergy, please bring your own snack

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____ Phone Number _____

Parent/Guardian **E-mail address** _____

Where do you attend church? _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____

I'm(parent/guardian) interested in "**Coffee & Connection**" during VBS, 9-10:30am: **YES / NO**

VBS Registration Deadline is Friday, June 11th!

-Rocky Railway-

CHRISTIAN ED

Praise God for supplying us with gracious servants at EGCC, who have helped to support a successful year of educating and loving our youngest children through God's word, in a revised Junior Church and nursery model. On June 13th, we celebrate our faithful volunteers and young children by taking time during the service to recognize them for their dedication. Join us on Celebration Sunday!

In other wonderful news, the Lord has answered our many prayers and we are excited to reopen our full Sunday School program in the fall. This will include Sunday School and nursery support for all of our children and youth, as well as adult Sunday School classes. We plan to offer two adult Sunday School class options each trimester, which will last approximately 11-12 classes. As has been the case in the past, Sunday School will begin promptly at 9:00 and end at 10:00, allowing for fellowship time before the service begins. More details with specific class descriptions and teachers will be coming in the next newsletter. Kick off Sunday will be 9/19/21, so mark your calendars!

Thank you for your continued prayers for our ministry and volunteers. If you have a heart for children or a desire to teach, there are so many opportunities for you to serve. Please speak to any one of us on the CE Board (Katie Jahn, Mary Anne Austin, Dave Austin, Becky Blais) about your interests!

Gratefully,
Becky Blais

SAVE THE DATES!

Celebration Sunday and Picnic - June 13th
Join us as we Celebrate our Jr. Church participants
and High School Graduates!

Hotdogs and drinks provided by EGCC. Picnic begins right after the 10:30 service.

Please bring a dish to share. Register to attend the picnic on Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebration-sunday-picnic-tickets-157072418833>

Kick Off Sunday - September 19th

More details to come!