

CHURCH SCHEDULE

**Sunday School & Bible Study:
9:45 a.m.**

Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Bible Study:
7:00 p.m.**

(No bible study May 28 – Semi-annual congregational meeting @ 7 p.m.)

SPEAKERS

May 4: Ivan Niemela, *Holy Communion*

May 11: Ivan Niemela

May 18: Paul Coponen

May 25: Ivan Niemela, *Potluck meal following the service*

CONTACT

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Stand in the Gate

“Stand in the gate of the LORD’S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.” - Jeremiah 7:2

In this verse, God instructs Jeremiah to stand at the entrance of the temple to prepare for what he is to proclaim during the temple service. Rather than just delivering the sermon inside the temple, God wants Jeremiah to meet worshippers as they arrive. This allows the Holy Spirit time to prepare both his heart and theirs. This moment before entering the Lord’s house offers an important lesson for today’s worship, particularly for believers as they interact with others, including non-believers, outside the church sanctuary.

Jeremiah’s message was not meant for the multitudes in the streets or the marketplace; instead, God called him to speak directly to those who had entered His house to worship. Throughout the Old Testament, prophets such as Elijah, Elisha, and Amos preached in varied settings, including public squares and royal courts, ensuring God’s word reached all parts of life. Yet, in this instance, Jeremiah was instructed to preach within the temple—highlighting the significance of temple-based instruction.

The temple has always played a central role in spreading God’s word. In one of his visions, Ezekiel saw water flowing from beneath the threshold of the Lord’s house: *“Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward”* (Ezekiel 47:1). Initially, the stream was shallow, but as it moved further from the temple, it deepened—first reaching ankle depth, then knee depth, and eventually becoming a mighty river. This vision powerfully illustrates how a seemingly small gathering of believers within the temple can grow into a vast spiritual movement, carrying God’s message far beyond its walls.

Apostle John speaks of living water flowing from within believers, aligning with Ezekiel’s vision of life-giving water spreading outward: *“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”* (John 7:38). Further, he emphasizes that believers today can reach more people with the word, far beyond what Jesus could physically accomplish during His brief ministry on earth: *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father”* (John 14:12). While one believer alone might speak the truth to a few others, a unified group can multiply the effect, extending God’s word to all nations.

Jeremiah’s message in the temple focused on repentance and forgiveness. The people had strayed so far from God that they chose false teachings over the truth, refusing to confess their sins at the temple’s entrance. Yet, God called them to acknowledge their sins, saying: *“Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God”* (Jeremiah 3:13).

Despite the hardness of the people’s hearts, Jeremiah continued to preach. Similarly, today’s believers must continue sharing the gospel: *“That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem”* (Luke 24:47), whether they see immediate results or not. God assured Jeremiah: *“If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent me of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings.”* (Jeremiah 26:3). This promise remains true today. Through Christ, believers have been given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt 16:19; John 20:23), empowering them to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to all who repent. As James 5:16 encourages, we are called to confess our faults to one another, strengthening and

uplifting one another in faith: *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

Preaching the truth in church serves to teach, encourage, and unify believers in their mission to spread the gospel and proclaim the forgiveness of sins beyond the sanctuary. Just as water flowed from the temple in Ezekiel’s vision, believers today are called to let God’s truth pour out into surrounding communities, bringing eternal life to those in need of salvation. Preaching provides a strong foundation for this work, equipping individuals to carry the message from the sanctuary into the world.

May we all be ready to stand in the gate, prepared to receive and share the word of God.

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen