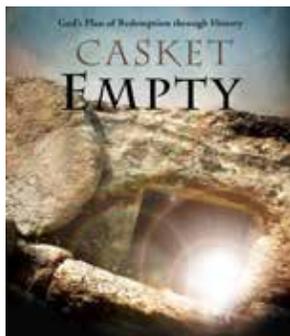


Spring 2018

Ecclesia

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND GOD'S WORK AT KENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH



Spring Sermon Series

Casket Empty: God's plan of redemption through history

This spring we continue with the

New Testament portion of our sermon series entitled CASKET EMPTY: God's Plan of Redemption through History. We will complete our survey of the great narrative of Scripture that compels us to join God's mission in the world today. The unity of the Bible is found in the character of God and His saving plan for humanity in Jesus Christ. The death and resurrection of Jesus provide forgiveness of sins and mark the dawn of God's new creation. CASKET EMPTY study will help us see this.

The gospel provides the shape of our worship, the model for our discipleship, and the motivation to share Christ with others. In his essay "How the World Lost Its Story," Robert Jensen explains that "it is the church's task to tell the biblical narrative to the world in proclamation and to God in worship. It is the church's mission to tell all who will listen that the God of Israel has raised His servant Jesus from the dead, and to unpack the soteriological and doxological import of

that fact." Our CASKET EMPTY study will help us do this.

The acronym CASKET guided us in the fall through the Old Testament that begins at CREATION, continues with the call of ABRAHAM, and culminates with the covenant God makes with his descendants at SINAI. God's redemptive purpose advances in the period of KINGS when God's people enter the land of Israel and David is promised an everlasting kingship. Despite the judgment of EXILE, God's plan remains certain during the period of TEMPLE as the Old Testament concludes with a partial restoration and a vivid picture of future hope.

The acronym EMPTY will guide our journey this spring through the New Testament as God builds EXPECTATIONS for a coming King. The hope of Israel is realized in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the promised MESSIAH. God pours out the Holy Spirit upon the church at PENTECOST and believers are

empowered as witnesses of the forgiveness through Christ's death and res-



urrection. God then commissions His people so that the TEACHING of Christ may spread to all nations. The church offers new life in Christ to all who believe. We are one redeemed people, united by faith in Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In the final book of the Bible, God reveals the present rule and future glory of Christ as we eagerly await the return of Him who is YET-TO-COME. God's plan of redemption reveals His identity and our own. His eternal purpose will guide our daily decisions. The greatness of His salvation will inspire our humble efforts to make Him known. Our CASKET EMPTY study will help us to live this. 

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures"

Rev. Alberto Bent, Pastor of Worship

A Genuine and Contagious Love for the Lord



Rev. Alberto Bent joined our team as the Pastor of Worship in February. After a nation-wide candidate search, the Worship Pastor Search Team recommended, the Executive Council affirmed, and the congregation voted to extend the offer to Alberto.

Alberto, and his wife of 24 years, Becky, heard and heeded God's call to a new place of service at Kenwood. Alberto and Becky demonstrate a love for each other and a heart of service.

Alberto is committed to the truthfulness of God's Word and the importance of His church, globally, and locally. It

is clear that Alberto is filled and led by the Spirit. He believes that worship is a response to our triune God. He believes life change happens when we encounter the living God and believes intergenerational worship is vital for personal discipleship and church health. He also believes multi-ethnic worship reflects God's kingdom and is excited to lead our diverse congregation.

Before coming to Kenwood, Alberto served as worship pastor for Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Florida. He has over 20 years of experience in both small and large congregations. He earned a Master of Arts in music from the University of Missouri in Kansas City. He is a talented vocalist and musician;

he plays piano and saxophone. He is also experienced in leading choirs, praise teams, and musicals. Alberto enjoys a wide range of musical styles and is able to write and arrange music. Additionally, he enjoys the technical side of worship --working with the audio, video, and lighting components.

We look forward to getting to know Alberto and Becky as they embark on this new adventure!



"Kenwood has a rich history and a promising future. I believe Alberto brings a gift set that completes our staff, honors those already serving in the worship ministry, and matches the needs of a diverse congregation. I'm delighted with God's provision in Alberto."

– *Scott Burns,*
Associate Pastor

Children's Class: Understanding communion

Our children ages 2nd grade through 6th grade have joined our larger congregation in worship at 9:30. Learning to worship and seeing the church praise God together, actively listening God's Word and growing in faith during this time with their family and church family is a special and important time. Since children are participating in worship, they are also participating in communion. To help children understand communion

better, Pastor Sara will be offering a communion education class for children 2nd-6th grade on Wednesday nights starting March 3-April 25. This class will cover creation, the fall and sin, the Old Testament sacrificial system, Passover and the need for the Savior. It will be open to have parents join their children, encouraging family conversations about faith. Information will be sent out to families prior to this 8 week Wednesday night children's class option with registration.

Evangelistic Culture Developing at Kenwood

Over 40 people are currently participating in Session 1 of Sharing Christ With Others, an eight week evangelistic class taking place on Wednesday evenings. This class encourages and equips us to witness to those we regularly encounter in our daily lives.



One of our "big event evangelism" efforts at Deer Park Days in the Park.

Our efforts in "big event evangelism" have been growing for some time. Ministry efforts at Days in the Park and the Madeira Street Dance, along with hosting special speakers and

events, are a great way to minister to the crowds. God has opened these doors and blessed our efforts. Looking ahead, the pastoral team believes God is calling us to do more one on one and small group evangelism.

Our goal over the next six months is to have 25 intentional evangelistic efforts happening throughout our city. These efforts will be more intimate – one on one conversations in a coffee shop, or a small group of people exploring God's Word together.

In anticipation of the upcoming summer series in the Gospel of Mark, participants are learning how to do one on one Bible reading and use Christianity Explored material to expose others to what Jesus actually said and did. Reading the Bible with non-Christians is a highly effective means of centering discussions on Jesus, and bringing people to faith. Extended times of prayer are happening each week as well.

Another round of the eight week study, Sharing Christ With Others, will begin on March 7. We are praying for 25 people to participate in this second session. May God do a great work among us and fill us with compassion for the lost. May God bless our efforts as we seek to share the good news with others.



Sharing Christ with others is part of the mission of Kenwood. Kenwood has many events throughout the year to invite others to hear about Christ. CFM will host an Easter event complete with a delicious breakfast and a unique way for children and their families to experience the Easter story. As we seek to share Christ with others, invite a friend or neighbor this Easter to hear that Christ is Risen!



Join us this summer as we **EXPLORE BABYLON FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

Everyone is welcome and the whole church can be involved in this exciting way to reach kids with the love and message of Jesus Christ. See the Ishtar Gate, hear from Daniel about his trust in the one true God, and join in the fun! **VBS is June 18-22 6:00-8:30**, so mark your calendars and invite a friend to VBS! VBS is for children ages 4 years old through 6th grade. Children going into 7th can be assistant leaders.

You're Invited

- March 4** *A Conversation with
Dr. Ben Witherington III 7:00 p.m.*
- March 5** *Veritas Forum with
Dr. Ben Witherington III
12:00 p.m., UC, MSB 7051, tickets required*
- March 30** *Good Friday Service 7:30 p.m.*
- March 31** *Children and Family Ministry Easter
Breakfast and Experience
8:30 - 11:00 a.m.*
- April 1** *Easter Services, 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.*
- April 8** *Hymn Sing, 6:30 p.m.*
- April 22** *A Conversation with
Drs. Vince and Jo Vitale
National Director and Dean of Studies,
respectively, at the Ravi Zacharias Institute,
7:00 p.m.*
- April 23** *Veritas Forum with
Drs. Vince and Jo Vitale
2:15 p.m., UC, Great Hall, tickets required*
- April 23** *Jesus Among Secular Gods:
An Evangelistic Message by
Dr. Vince Vitale
7:00 p.m., tickets required*
- April 25** *Last Day of Wednesday Night
Children's Classes*
- May 17-27** *Medical Mission and Seminary
Trip to Lebanon*
- June 3** *Hymn Sing and Mission Moment
6:30-8:15 p.m.*
- June 18-22** *Vacation Bible School:
Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity*
- July 12-22** *Student Mission Trip to Thailand*



A Conversation with Ben Witherington III

You are invited to attend an evening for the Kenwood Family to listen to an interview style conversation between Pastor David Palmer and Professor Ben Witherington III.

A book signing and reception will follow.

Sunday, March 4, 7:00 PM



Drs. Vince and Jo Vitale

Vince Vitale, Director of the Ravi Zacharias Institute, and Jo Vitale, Dean of Studies at the Ravi Zacharias Institute, will visit Cincinnati in late April to deliver a series of lectures.

On Sunday, April 22, Kenwood will host *A Conversation with Vince and Jo Vitale* at 7:00 p.m. The evening will be recorded and available on YouTube later, as was done for Eric Metaxas and N.T. Wright. The Kenwood Family is encouraged to attend this first event.

On Monday, April 23, the Vitales will address UC in a *Veritas Forum* with Dr. Zvi Biener, UC Philosophy professor. The topic is the intersection of suffering and the good life. Later at 7:00 p.m., the greater community will be invited to our church for *Jesus Among Secular Gods: An Evangelical Message* by Vince Vitale. We expect to have a large crowd, and the Kenwood Family is encouraged to serve as hosts for this event. Both Monday events require tickets which are available online at kenwoodbaptist.org.