

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org

April 2, 2017

Dr. Nasir Zaidi

Moral and Spiritual Messages of Jesus Christ in Islamic Resources

Worship Leader: Veronica Dyck
Accompanist: Rosemary Bell

Music Worship: Catherine Cooper
Usher: Edward Epp

Last Sunday On the 4th Sunday of Lent, Andre Pekovich read a sermon by Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg ("Seeing for the First Time") based on the story in John 9 of the man born blind. The metaphorical blindness of the religious leaders was revealed in their presumption of sin as the cause of physical disability. But Jesus refuted that prejudiced view and healed the man to reveal God's mighty works. People like the R&B singer Ray Charles and the physicist Stephen Hawking show us how much the differently-abled can accomplish. May we recognize the variety in God's blessings, like that of the English poet John Newton, who wrote in the hymn Amazing Grace, "I once was blind, but now I see." [KH]

Hear the message on your favourite browser at <https://pgimf.org/service/theology-of-disability/>

PGIMF News

April 9

Laura Eriksson

Palm Sunday: Stories Inside the Story

April 16

Service of songs & Prayers

Easter Sunday

April 23

Greg Laing

Missions Today

April 30

Sing-along Messiah

Memorial Service

Peter Neudorf and the family thank you for your expressions of condolence and blessing in the passing of Helga Neudorf last weekend. For all who desire to remember Helga, a memorial will be April 8 at 2:00pm at the North Shore Alliance Church, 201 23rd St. E, North Vancouver. Following the service will be a time of visiting and sharing stories accompanied by refreshments. While Helga has passed away, the gift of Helga continues to enrich our lives, and those stories deserve to be shared. All are welcome.

New e-mail Those who may have had trouble contacting Rosie Perera at her Sprynet account, please be advised of her new primary e-mail address at (New address available from webmaster)

Wider Church

MCC Food Crisis in Africa The world is facing the largest food crisis since the Second World War. More than 20 million people across Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and northeast Nigeria are facing or are at risk of famine. Visit mccbc.ca to learn more and make a difference today. Donations can also be sent to MCC BC at 201-33933 Gladys Ave., Abbotsford, BC, V2S 2E8. Designate cheques to "Relief".

West Point Grey Lenten Prayer Vigils The last Lenten Prayer Vigil will be held this Wednesday, April 5 at noon at West Point Grey Baptist Church, 4509 W. 11th Ave. Soup may follow. All welcome

Anabaptism: Beliefs and Practices. The 10 week course in Anabaptist Beliefs and Practices led by youth leader Annika Krause continues Thursdays at the Menno Simons Centre at 7:30 pm. All are welcome but class size is limited. Contact Curtis Funk to reserve your place.

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we now record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will continue to be not recorded.

Moderator—Curtis Funk (604-992-6913); *Worship*—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);

Congregational Care—Lois Funk (604-992-8213); *Recording Secretary*--- Diane Ehling (604-904-1380);

Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); *At Large*—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); Travis Martin (604-603-7843);

Finance — Janice Kreider; *Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

Thank you

Janice and I thank our friends at PGIMF for your prayers, cards, terrarium (now hanging in my study window), and notes of support during the time our family was saying our farewells to my Mother, Virginia Stalter Kreider. It was a time of reflection, tears and laughter as cousins gathered. Even my remaining two Aunts (92 and 101) and Uncle (88) were present, in spite of challenges posed by health and distance. [JEK]

BCMB Convention the BCMB annual convention and AGM will be held April 28-29, 2017 at Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford. The theme this year is: All we need in Christ (John 15:7). Registration now available at www.bcmb.org. Cost to attend will be \$35/per person for both days. A celebration banquet will be hosted on the Friday evening, which is included in the registration fee.

Islam at a Glance A free public program presented by Dunbar Public Library (4155 Dunbar St.) features Islamic scholar Mohammed Shujaath Ali exploring facts and myths, offer insights and answer questions about Islam. Wednesday March 29th from 6:00 - 7:30 pm, no registration required. For more information 604-655-3968

Vancouver Cantata Singers Explore Shakespeare's truly international influence in Full Fathom Five: Shakespeare in Song, a program of music from England, Finland, Switzerland, Hungary, Sweden, the United States and, of course, Canada. Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 pm in the Orpheum Annex (behind the Orpheum) Hoist a glass of wine, and enjoy a banquet of music to Shakespeare's birthday.

Poetry and Music for Holy Week. A reading of selected poems from Loren Wilkinson's first published poetry collection, Imago Mundi, with interludes of music by Palestrina, revolve around themes of Holy Week and Easter. In this book of poems, Wilkinson draws wisdom from tides, beaches, seals, and farm equipment of southwestern BC in honour of the "word made flesh". Monday 10th April at 7:30 at the VST Epiphany Chapel. More at http://www.regent-college.edu/about-us/events/event-details?event_id=628

Call to worship

Leader: In the midst of an imperfect world
Jesus calls us into life.

People: We come, searching for hope.

Leader: In the midst of our work and play and rest,
Jesus calls us into prayer.

People: We come, searching for peace.

Leader: In the midst of our everyday lives,
Jesus calls us to follow him.

**All: We come, searching for the One who is already here.
Let us worship the God who calls us.**

<http://www.seekerschurch.org/worship/liturgies/1776-2017-lent-is-god-with-us-is-god-among-us>

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' ⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me,

'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely."

¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.' [NRSV]

Psalms 130

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities. [NRSV]

Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and

peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. [NRSV]

John 1:1-45

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' ²¹And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²²Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They

asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?'

²⁶John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' ³²And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).
Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' [NRSV]