

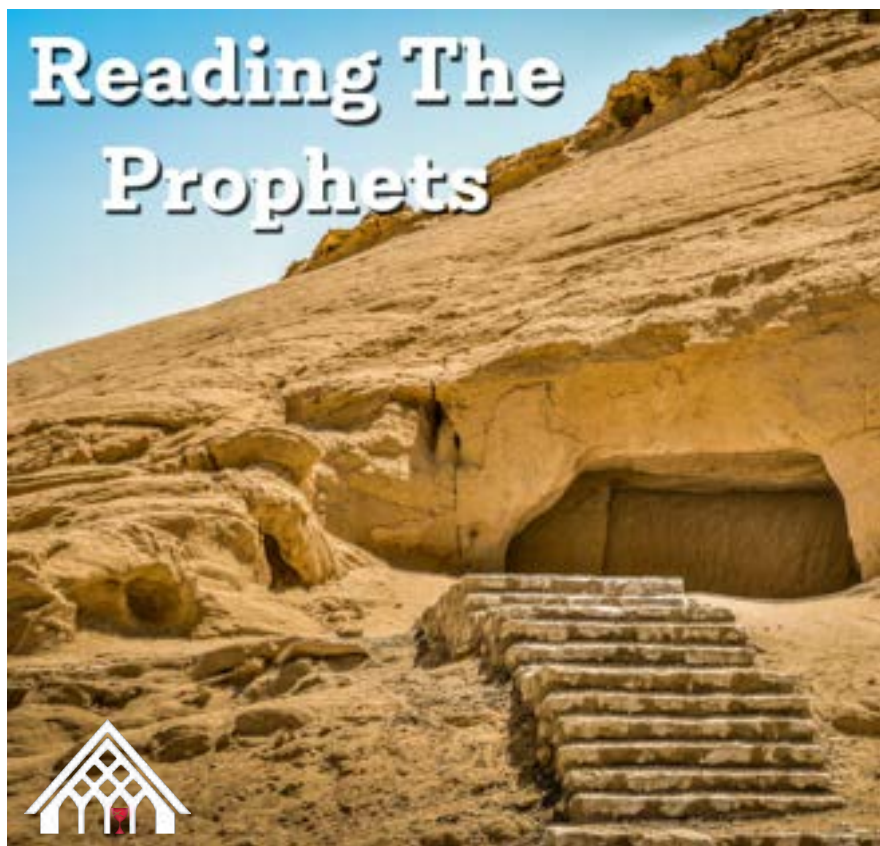


The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

April 27, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 14

Reading The Prophets



In this Issue:

Pastors' Articles
Youth & Children
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WEEK AT A GLANCE

SAT
APRIL
26
APRIL 26-MAY 3RD
8AM CIA HOUSE
1901 W. LOUISIANA (CORNER OF
LOUISIANA & L ST.)

SUN
APRIL
27
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
4:30PM CHILDREN & YOUTH
EVENING PROGRAM

TUE
APRIL
29
6:30PM CUBSCOUTS
6:30PM SCOUTING AMERICA
BOYS TROOP

WED
APRIL
30
7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9AM FOOD PANTRY
6PM ELDERS MEETING
7PM CHOIR

SUN
MAY
4
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
4:30PM CHILDREN & YOUTH
EVENING PROGRAM

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

THE PROPHETS SPEAK: THUS SAITH THE LORD

The prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures are interesting characters. For those of us

who have grown up listening to the scriptures read in church, or at home, their authority is without question. We hear them and assume that they now as they have always been—authoritative words given of God to a people living in a particular time and place. Digging into them a little deeper, I don't think that's quite true.

The prophet Amos was asked, "Are you a prophet." His reply was "I am neither a prophet, nor the son of a prophet." Yet, we have a book of his prophecies...what's the deal?

In the ancient world, it seems there were two classes of "prophets". One class of prophets were paid prophets who worked for rulers and authorities. If a king had a question and wanted to consult God (or the gods), he would call his court prophets in and ask for their (hired) expertise. I think we can all imagine that often the answers they gave were what the king wanted to hear. In 1 Kings 22, the kings of Judah and Israel decide to work together in a war against Aram. But before they sally forth in battle, they decide to ask a company of 400 prophets, who also declared "Go forth, for the Lord will give you victory!" King Jehoshaphat of Judah was a little unconvinced by this and asked for a second opinion. The prophet Micaiah was known to Ahab, the king of Israel, but Ahab hated Micaiah because his prophecies were always so dour. Long story short, Micaiah predicted doom in the war and that's exactly what

happened. And for us, we see that the true word of the Lord often came from outside "the powers that be".

Tradition tells us that Isaiah was sawn in two by King Manasseh. Jeremiah was thrown into a well for his prophecies. Daniel was thrown to the lion's den. And, of course, Jesus himself, whose identity is in the tradition of the prophets, was killed in Jerusalem by "the powers that be". Many of the prophets labored in relative obscurity and few were recognized as genuine prophets until years later. Yet the voice of the "official" prophets is all but lost—what's been preserved are the words of those who lived and worked and prophesied outside of the circles of power.

It seems that God's people often have a problem with God's word. There's an ignoble tradition of God's people only hearing what they want to hear, of deciding that God is always on their side despite their hypocrisy, and of setting themselves up as the unquestioned authority and voice of God. While I do believe that we can speak God's word, I realize that every time I take my place in the pulpit, my role is to humbly let God's word speak through me and never be so consumed with my title and position as to confuse my words as always being "God's Word". Should you ever find that I present myself as God's voice in all time and all places, you need to fire me and start searching for someone with a little more humility.

**There's an ignoble tradition of
God's people only hearing
what they want to hear.**

The Scriptures remind us that God's word is living and active—it's like a double-edged sword that cuts through our priorities and prejudices—it's within us and helps us feel confident, yet at the same time it holds us accountable. As Jesus preached, he was steeped in scripture, but many rejected him because he came from the outside and his interpretation didn't align with their tradition. It called them to transformation, and that wasn't comfortable.

Still today, God's word calls us to ongoing transformation. It calls us to examine our priorities and prejudices. It calls us to hear and to be changed. This Sunday we begin a sermon series "The Prophets Speak: Thus Saith the Lord." My prayer is that, as we listen, we will let our guard down and be changed by God's message.

See you at the Table,



Kids @ FCC

Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder will hear the story "Money in a Fish".

1st – 5th Graders will continue reading stories from the Book of Acts.

Children's Church

Preschool/Kinder will listen to the story "Baby Moses".

1st – 3rd Graders will hear about Jesus after the resurrection.

Sunday Afternoon

On the 27th, the children, ages 1st grade through 5th grade, will meet at the Family Life Center (enter on "G" Street) at 4:15. They will be shuttled to the Christmas in Action house at 1901 W. Louisiana. There the children will either paint siding or help clean the area. They will be brought back to the Family Life Center at 6:00 for pickup. All adults/parents are welcome to help at the house, too.

Everyone must wear tennis shoes and, preferably, working clothes.

Hats and/or sunscreen are also recommended.



**PARENT AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
VOLUNTEER CONVERSATION**

We are talking with a candidate for the Children's Ministry Director position and would like to invite parents and volunteers to meet the candidate before we move forward.

The gathering is set for Sunday, April 27, following worship in the Montgomery Room. Light finger foods will be provided, and we'll have supervision for children in the gym. Please mark your calendars!



 Christmas In Action
Building Hope in Your Community

**April 26th-
May 3rd**

8am

CIA





Easter Eggstravaganza

Thank you to everyone who helped make this years
Easter Eggstravaganza such a huge success!



Easter Sunday



Youth @ FCC



2025 Easter Lilies & Disciples Rice

In Memory of:

Shorty Williamson by Bob Williamson
Frank Singleton by Joy Singleton
Lynne G. Davis by Joe Gassie & Pat Vincent
Art & Arene Marshall by Joe Gassie & Pat Vincent
John & Maxine Leathers by Joe Gassie & Pat Vincent
J. Howard & Anne Gassie by Joe Gassie & Pat Vincent
Frank Singleton by Mary & Clint Hurst
C.W. Red, Mary, and Robert Ellis by Suzanne Gonzalez
R.H. & Shirley Hale by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
O.H. & Dorothy Rupe by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
Mary Mauldin by Jim Mauldin

In Honor of:

Cindy Wooley by Joseph Thompson
Joy Singleton by Suzanne Gonzalez
Joy Singleton by Mary & Clint Hurst
Vicki Gleason by Suzanne Gonzalez
Cindy Elliott by Suzanne Gonzalez
Chisham Family by Jim Mauldin

In Appreciation of:

The Ministry of First Christian Church
by Suzanne Gonzalez
FCC Staff by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
Martha & Emily Fentem by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
By Mike Stephenson



Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the following family who has recently lost a loved one.

The Mauldin Family: Jim Mauldin passed away on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.
Funeral arrangements for Jim are pending.

**Prayer List**

Those in need of prayer:

Jim Mauldin
 Hunter Family
 Abraham Ortega
 Virgie Lewis
 Tere Valero
 Kaylene Burgard
 Nancy Stanley
 Patsy Hill
 Fred Yates
 Vincent Cooper
 Pat Marshall
 Ginny Estes
 Joshua Harrison
 Mary Beth Corbett
 Linda Taylor
 Lisa Craven
 Mark Cranford
 Cricket Harrison
 Betty Odom
 Fred Schwiening
 Nicky Rodriguez
 Lana Cooley
 C.C. Petteway
 Pat Chambers
 Kathy Landrum
 Sheila Crudgington
 Gary Thompson

Military:

Tyler Brown—
grandson of Lyn Brown

Families, Friends Beyond FCC

Cindy Garcia—
CLC Teacher
 Barrett Wood—
cousin of Ginny Estes
 Jay Warren —
friend of Pat Marshall
 Kairos Conde—

nephew of Olivia Espino
 Grayson Pickett—
friend of Jeweli Flores
 Al Schorre—
friend of Sharon Boyd
 Robin Diegan & Jason Diegan—
cousins of Ginny Estes
 Amanda Bryant—
friend of Dave & Kathy Cromwell
 Freda Benton
 Amanda Lee—
friend of Janice Ford
 Reymondo Garcia—*brother of Maria Vinson*
 Gary Kennedy
friends of Lauren & Justin Disney
 Lee Stone—
brother of Jean Jones
 Fred Copeland—
father of Lauren Disney
 Ed Keah
friend of Joy Singleton
 J.M. Moore —
father of Kathy Landrum
 Kairos Conde —
nephew of Olivia Espino
 Oscar Garcia —
brother of Amparo Olguin

BirthdaysNames in **red** are youth and children

05/01 Betty Couch
 05/01 Julie Lastoka
 05/02 Jed Heard
 05/02 Cierra Stanford
 05/04 **Zaden Iness**
 05/05 John Espino
 05/07 Gwyn Hill
 05/09 Barbara Estes
 05/09 Nathan Dziuk

05/10 Linda Hyatt
 05/11 Nancy Stanley
 05/11 Tom Hill
 05/13 Bea Lea Somerville
 05/15 **Haydden Forgas**
 05/15 Ernie Gilkerson
 05/18 **James Coffman**
 05/19 Jill Wright
 05/20 **William Pierce**
 05/20 Matti Erwin
 05/21 **Grayson Stanley**
 05/23 Sandra Wills
 05/26 Fay Carey
 05/27 Brenda Morris
 05/27 **Chloe Wells**
 05/27 Amber Hopper
 05/28 **Greyson Flores**
 05/28 Justin Disney
 05/31 Carol Thompson

Anniversaries

05/01 Jessica Garrett Southern &
 Kevin Southern
 05/07 Marty & Sherry Wallace
 05/17 J.R. & Amanda Bourland
 05/19 Tom & Meta Jones

**Gifts Given
 Disciple Food Pantry
 In Memory of
 Virgie Lewis**



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Midland, TX 79701

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www.fccmidland.org

May 18, 2025

**Youth
&**

Senior Sunday



**Please Join Us For Our
Senior Luncheon After Worship**