



The Builder

First Christian Church

Midland

February 15, 2026

Volume 71 Issue 6



*Sermon
on the
Mount*

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Grace and peace to you as
we enter the season of Lent!
Technically the season start

this coming Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, but
we're getting into our sermon series a little early.

This year, our Lenten journey will be shaped by
Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), as
part of our year-long walk through the Gospel of
Matthew. The theme guiding us is simple and
steady: In Paths of Righteousness. Lent is never
merely a season for adding spiritual tasks. It is an
invitation to be led—again—into a life that is
truer, deeper, and more aligned with the Kingdom
of Heaven.

For many of us, the Sermon on the Mount has not
always sounded like good news.

A common way of hearing it—one I learned
early—treats it as an impossible standard. The
bar is so high that we either despair, or we quietly
negotiate it down to something manageable, or
we simply conclude that Jesus is showing us
what we can never do so we will throw ourselves
back on the grace of God. I still firmly believe in
the grace of God. I believe we are saved by grace,
sustained by grace, and continually returned to
God by grace. But I also believe Matthew places
this sermon where he does for another reason:
not to crush the faithful, but to rewrite what we
think righteousness is, and to shape a people
whose lives can actually be formed by Jesus'
words.

I know how easy it is to hear the sermon the
wrong way, because I've done it.

When I first heard Jesus say, "You are the light of
the world," I started numbering all the ways I
wasn't very bright. Instead of hearing a calling, I
felt exposed. And, as a teen, when I heard Jesus
speak about lust and desire, the result was not
transformation but guilt and shame. Over time
I've come to believe that was not Jesus' intent,
and it was not Matthew's intent either.

Matthew is writing to a church, not "the church"
in the abstract. His community is under
pressure—marginalized, misunderstood, and in
conflict with religious authorities who claim to
speak for God. Their devotion to Jesus has cost
them belonging and security. They are being
watched, evaluated, and dismissed. And into that
lived reality, Jesus does something surprising. He
does not coddle them, and he does not lower the
call. He speaks a blessing over those the world
overlooks, and then he names a vocation that
does not seem to fit their circumstances:

"You ARE the salt of the earth. You ARE the light
of the world." Not "you will be someday." Not
"once you get your life together." He names their
calling before their circumstances make sense of
it.

One of the most important things we will
practice this Lent is hearing how communal
these words really are. So many of Jesus' "you"
statements in the Sermon are plural. It's "y'all."
Jesus is shaping the character of a people. He is
teaching a community how to live when the
world's definitions of blessing, faithfulness, and
righteousness are being used against them.

That's why the sermon is not mainly about
outward appearances or religious mimicry. In a
world that prizes the appearance of God's
blessing—security, success, admiration—Jesus
rewrites blessing from the inside out. In a world

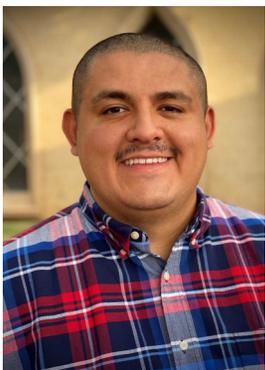
where religiosity can become performance, Jesus shows what true devotion looks like: prayer that is not for impressing others, giving that doesn't require applause, fasting that doesn't demand recognition, and trust that refuses to be organized around anxiety and scarcity.

If you have ever heard the Sermon on the Mount and felt only heaviness, you are not alone. But this Lent, we are going to practice hearing it differently: not as an impossible standard meant to crush, but as a trustworthy voice that calls, heals, and forms. Grace is not only forgiveness. Grace is also God's power at work in us—shaping a people who can actually walk the path Jesus sets before us.

**Grace is not only forgiveness.
Grace is also God's power
at work in us.**

As we begin, I invite you to do one simple thing: come with honesty. Bring the places where you feel small or uncertain. Bring the parts of faith that have felt like pressure rather than promise. Bring your questions and your longings. And let Jesus lead us, together, in right paths.

See you at the Table,



Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

The Sermon on the Mount

My God up above where does
my identity come from?

My identity is found in you.

I'm not my profession, I'm not a parent, a husband or wife, an uncle or aunt, a grandparent, I am fully your child.

I am your salt of the land, called to live in a right relationship with you and your people. That is what you ask of me, to cherish these relationships.

People don't need my life lessons, they need my time, my love, my undivided attention.

Help me to slow down and be fully present in where I am and who I am with.

May I be generous to those who need it and righteous in my prayers to you. You can see right through my facade. There is no fooling you.

That is why I come to you in a humble spirit asking you to tell me what I need to do to help build your Kingdom here on earth.

In your Kingdom the first will be last and the last will be first. May I lift up that perspective for my riches are not of this world, my riches are in the Kingdom with you.

This world, is not my home, it is not my final resting place, but merely a stop on my journey towards you.

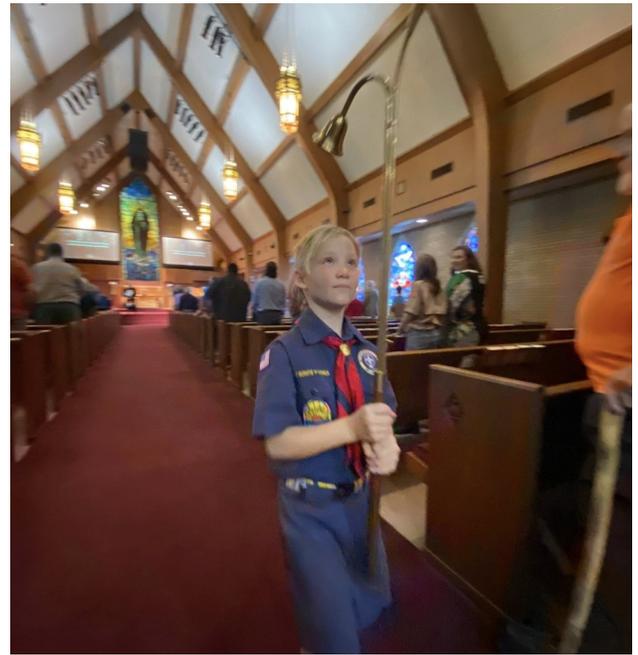
Please bless my path until I am there with you.

In your name I pray, amen.





Scout Sunday 2026



40+ Get Together



Youth & Children Superbowling Party!



CLC@FCC

Toast and Nature Hunt!



Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

Kathe Hepher
Maria & Vinson Cooper
Sandy Faulkner
Bill Boyd
Joy Singleton
Judy Hunnicutt
Mike Harrison
Marty Wallace
Bruce Stanley
Chris Huff
Betty Couch
Cinnamon Stanford
Abraham Ortega
Kaylene Burgard
Nancy Stanley
Fred Yates
Vincent Cooper
Pat Marshall
Ginny Estes
Joshua Harrison
Mary Beth Corbett
Linda Taylor
Lisa Craven
Mark Cranford
Cricket Harrison
Fred Schwiening
C.C. Petteway
Pat Chambers
Kathy Landrum
Sheila Crudgington
Gary Thompson

Military:

Tyler Brown– *grandson of Lyn Brown*

Families, Friends Beyond FCC

Sharon Thorton–mom of Dainel Thorton
Wyatt Lewis–*nephew of Terry Perry*
Kylea Stone–*friend of CLC*
Nola Damon – *friend of Jeweli Flores*
Nolan Gandy–*friend of Terry Perry*

Cindy Garcia– *CLC Teacher*
Robin Diegan & Jason Diegan–
cousins of Ginny Estes
Amanda Bryant–
friend of Dave & Kathy Cromwell
Amanda Lee–*friend of Janice Ford*
Reymondo Garcia–*brother of Maria Vinson*
Gary Kennedy *friends of Lauren & Justin Disney*
Fred Copeland—*father of Lauren Disney*
Ed Keah–*friend of Joy Singleton*
J.M. Moore – *father of Kathy Landrum*
Oscar Garcia – *brother of Amparo Olguin*

Birthdays

02/01 Bill Boyd
02/04 Rachel James
02/06 Chris Huff
02/10 Sandra Schnable
02/11 Netha Aaron
02/12 Sharon Boyd
02/12 David Chisham
02/13 Chaney Coffman
02/13 Katie Coffman
02/13 **Abraham Ortega**
02/17 Lyn Brown
02/18 Gaylon Howard Sr
02/23 Ann Minter
02/23 **Patton Dishron**
02/25 Mollie Wright
02/25 **Daniel Ortega**
02/26 Garrett Stephenson
02/26 Autumn Crudgington
02/27 Jeweli Flores
02/28 Becky Armour
02/29 Beverly Drummond

Anniversaries

02/09 Jack & Troy Campbell
02/14 Vinson & Maria Cooper
02/20 Dan O'Grady & Anne Shaunesy

Names in **red** are youth and children



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February 18, 2026

6pm Sanctuary Worship