



# The Journey

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www.fcc-hsv.org

## HUMBLE LEADERSHIP

by Paul Bonner

The heartbreaking, life-taking riot that took place at the Capitol building on January 6 left behind damage and debris that still lingers on our screens and in our minds. Once the chaos subsided, congress resumed their duties. The legislators took a break at 1 a.m. before returning to finalize their work around 3 a.m. During that break, Representative Andy Kim of New Jersey did something truly profound.

When Kim finally walked around the Rotunda, his favorite and arguably the most storied room of the national Capitol building, he was speechless. Water bottles, pieces of paper, broken furniture, tattered flags and pieces of clothing were scattered around, leaving the room to look much like an abandoned parking lot. "I was just overwhelmed with emotion. It's a room that I love so much — it's the heart of the Capitol.... It pained me so much to see it in this kind of condition." Even though Kim was emotionally exhausted, he did not wait for someone else to begin cleaning up the sad mess, nor did he remain paralyzed by the gravity of what had occurred.

For 90 minutes Kim crouched on his knees, gathering enough trash to fill a half-dozen garbage bags. When he finished in the Rotunda, he moved on to adjacent rooms, such as the National Statuary Hall and the Capitol crypt. A photo of Kim's gesture went viral in the days following, proving that his reaction was rare and inspiring thousands. It was also a display of humble leadership.

God desires for us to live humbly — every single day. God does not approve of the haughty, arrogant approach that is often so common in our relationships and leadership. We know of God's desire for us not only through numerous biblical texts but also through the words of Jesus and the life he lived. Meekness reveals our trust in something — someone—bigger than ourselves.

### "A Prayer for Humility"

Let me have too deep a sense of humor to be proud.

Let me know my absurdity before I act absurdly.

Let me realize that when I am humble I am most human, most truthful,  
and most worthy of your serious consideration. Amen.

- Daniel A. Lord, SJ

We are resuming the **9:30 a.m. in Sanctuary worship service on Sunday, February 7**. The service will be broadcast live to the church parking lot and streamed on line (see following page for Online Worship Services).

### GIVING STATEMENTS

If you want to receive your 2020 Giving Statement please contact the church office either by phone or email. We can send your statement by email or mail, just indicate how you want to receive it.

Thank you for your generosity, FCC Office  
256-881-0150 office@fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, February 4**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802  
Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Leave a message.**

## Sanctuary Service Protocols

- In person worship is at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday school classes, the nursery, children/youth gatherings, coffee, and other hospitality services are currently suspended.
- While FCC and the State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level. Virtual services are offered (facebook.com/fcchsv, twitch.tv/fcchsv, or First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube) every Sunday.
- **Attendees, including children, will wear face coverings/masks inside the church and practice social distancing (6 feet apart for non-household members) for everyone's safety.**
- Attendance is limited (approximately 75) to the ability to social distance and the service will be broadcast (107.9) to the parking lot in the event of overflow attendance.
- Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors. The doors by the church office will be locked.
- Greeters will provide hand sanitizer to all who enter and provide masks for those who have not brought their own.
- Ushers will seat people down the center/side aisles
- No choir/congregational singing.
- Following the service, rows will **leave by the side aisles** with the east aisle exiting through Family Services and the west aisle through the Narthex doors. (There will be directional signs.)
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Please, **no congregating indoors** before or after service - social distancing outdoors.
- **Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.**
- **Notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.**

## REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Primera Iglesia Cristiana  
Birmingham, AL



## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.

## Not Published Online

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the lists.

## ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Stream live at 9:30 am on Sundays (or watch previous services anytime) on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw)

You may also stream services live on Sundays at 9:30 am, watch previous services, videos for children, and special activities on our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/fcchsv/videos](http://www.facebook.com/fcchsv/videos)

Finally, stream services at 9:30 am on Sunday at: [www.twitch.tv/fcchsv](http://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv)



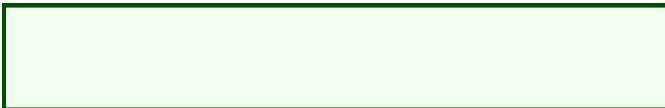
**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is in memory of Delores Edgeton by Gordon & Cathy Trowbridge..



## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



**Not Published Online**



We are temporarily publishing, as space allows in the printed version of the *Journey*, the prayer concerns that are usually listed in the Sunday bulletins. Concerns are listed for one month unless we receive an update. Long term prayer concerns are published monthly in the *Journey*. Send requests to [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) or call the church office at 256-881-0150 and leave a message. **Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**

## CWM AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY COMMUNITY FREE DENTAL CLINIC

Have you ever experienced a broken or abscessed tooth? If so, you may be fortunate enough to have a dentist you called for help with this health crisis or you may have sort help in an emergency room. If the later is the case, the emergency room is not equipped to help with dental extractions. There are local dentists who try to help with such need based emergencies in their offices when possible, but today's COVID safety concerns make that situation even more problematic.

Madison County, Alabama, is very fortunate to have a not for profit Community Free Dental Clinic available to serve the qualifying adult community. Those residents, 19 and older with incomes equal to or less than 150% of the poverty level, may make appointments for extractions and education leading to improved oral health. The general good health of any adult is so dependent upon the health of the mouth. Please consider financial support of this outreach during the month of February. As we "count our blessings and name them one by one", remember the good oral health blessing.

CWM and Community Outreach thank you in advance for your support of this worthy effort. Donations may be made to First Christian Church by your usually method of giving with Free Dental Clinic noted as the recipient .

During this time of social distancing, please remember your tithes and offerings. You may use PayPal (click on the Donate button at the bottom of the linked page [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give](http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give)), drop it off at the church office 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday – Friday (please call first, the person on duty may be in another part of the church or at lunch), or mail to:

First Christian Church  
3209 Whitesburg Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35802

## KEEPING THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

By Mary Luti

*Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment.* - Matthew 22:37-38 (NRSV)

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), whose feast day is celebrated today, was an intellectual giant whose thought became foundational for the Catholic Church. To this day, official Catholic theology begins and ends with Thomism.

Thomas couldn't have foreseen such outsized influence. In his lifetime, he troubled his contemporaries by incorporating Greek, Jewish, and Muslim wisdom into Christian theology. And he really rattled them by teaching that we can partially know God with our unaided human reason.

He blazed trails, but he was no firebrand. As a student, he was so quiet his teachers thought he was stupid. Because he was fat, they intolerantly assumed he was lazy. They called him "The Dumb Ox." Thomas didn't care. He kept on loving God with his whole heart and his whole mind, writing academic theology one day, popular sermons about Baby Jesus the next.

And then, as he was finishing his greatest work, the Summa Theologica, he had one of those blazing mystical encounters with God after which nothing is ever the same. He stopped writing. Urged to continue, he reportedly replied, "It's all straw." He never finished. Three months later, he died.

So next time you defend a role for reason in the life of faith, or appreciate the wisdom in traditions not your own, or blaze a new trail seeking greater light, or reassess everything you once valued after meeting the Living God, remember Thomas. He was there before you, keeping the Great Commandment, opening the way.

### **Prayer**

"Grant me, my God  
a mind to know you,  
a heart to seek you,  
wisdom to find you,  
conduct that pleases you,  
perseverance to wait for you,  
and the hope of embracing you  
when everything ends." - Thomas Aquinas