

November 24, 2024

# The View

*“Sirs, we wish to see Jesus.” – John 12:21*

## Welcome Visitors

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God’s word, including respecting its silence. We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly “headquarters.” The five elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don’t understand something, please do not hesitate to ask the preacher or one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God’s word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

*Please fill out a visitor’s card and put it in the collection plate when it is passed.*

*We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.*

## Schedule

### The Lord’s Day

#### 9:30 AM Bible Classes

*Auditorium: Ecclesiastes*

*Young Adult Class (room 12)*

*“Acts, Sharing Our Faith”*

*Room 13/14: “Relationships”*

#### 10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: Scott Gardner

*“The Power of Gratitude”*

*I Thessalonians 5:16-21*

*Livestream at 9:30 & 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>*

#### Bible Class: 5:00 PM @ the Building

*Praying the Psalms (Auditorium)*

#### Additional Classes

High School Class, 5 PM on Sundays @ David & Christie Posey’s home

Young people monthly meeting (middle school): contact David Sanderson

[david.r.sanderson@intel.com](mailto:david.r.sanderson@intel.com)

or Seth Reagan ([sethreagan@gmail.com](mailto:sethreagan@gmail.com))

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Men’s Bible Study: 7 to 8 AM

Bel Air Market on Bidwell in Folsom. “Iron sharpens iron” (Proverbs 27:17). Mentoring (Titus 2:1-6).

### Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Same classes as Sunday at 9:30

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Articles published in the View reflect only the thoughts and opinions of the author alone, not necessarily the editor, the elders or any member of the church at Folsom.

# A Psalm of Thanksgiving for God's Creation

MODELED AFTER PSALM 136.

FROM THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S CLASS, 2022.

**1** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of Lords, who created  
all things,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**2** To him who formed the deep oceans and the  
shallow streams,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**3** To him who varies the seasons,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**4** To him who created the deep blue sea and the  
majestic mountains,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**5** To him who blew in the crashing waves,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**6** To him who made the vast sky and seas,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**7** To him who makes the water in the rivers flow  
fiercely,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**8** Give thanks to the Lord, for he has made each  
vein of a green leaf,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**9** To him who crafted the hearts of sweet children,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**10** To him who made the millions of stars in the sky,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**11** To him who composed the birds' singing,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**12** To him who created a smile - a small moment  
made to share happiness,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**13** Give thanks to him who created each drop of  
rain,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**14** To him who made the snowy mountain tops and  
formed the deep valleys,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**15** To him who made the flowers bloom,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**16** To him who created the vast green tree tops,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**17** To him who made the color-changing leaves,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**18** To him who makes the wolves to howl under the  
moon,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**19** To him who created the beautiful, colorful flowers,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**20** To him who created the unique seasons in the  
year,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**21** To him who sets the bright sun and raises the  
moon,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**22** To him who made the precious dandelions,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**23** To him who made the multitudes of beautiful,  
complex, and unique animals,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

**24** To him who brings forth perfect babies from their  
mothers' wombs,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
For his steadfast love endures forever.

## Millstone-Ready “Humans”

There are many things in life that cause us sadness and some of those keep us up at night. Friends, family and brethren may be struggling in some way and these issues trouble us, especially when we feel helpless to do anything about it.

There are also what I will call “global” issues that cause concern. There are always “wars and rumors of wars” and that will never end. As a child living through the “cold war” that, on several occasions, seemed to get warmer, the constant threat of nuclear annihilation hovered over our heads. Today, I’m shocked at how some talk of a WWII almost casually.

But that’s not what keeps me up at night. What keeps me up at night and saddens me during the day is the blatant mistreatment of children that is taking place right under our American noses. The United States is the number one market for sexually-trafficked children. How is that possible? Meanwhile, about 300,000 unaccompanied migrant children have come into this country and have now gone “missing.” Where do you suppose they’ve gone? We read about an “Epstein Island” and, more recently, about allegations of sexual abuse by rapper P. Diddy and other celebrities. Those are just the most publicized cases. Who knows how widespread this problem of brazen child abuse has become?

I’m going to say it: *there is no form of “human” life more barbaric and evil than an adult who harms a child in any way.* Listen to Jesus:

**“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.” — Mark 9:42**

I can’t think of a place where Jesus was more blunt about the judgment pronounced on a specific sin than this. In fact, Jesus has such a high regard for children that he used them as examples of those who will populate his kingdom:

**“Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me.” Matthew 18:4-5**

In whatever capacity you serve in your community, do your part to speak out against this horrible sin against those who are the most vulnerable in our society.

dp

### Talk About “Sad”...

*Laken Riley’s Last Journal Entry*

Laken, as you doubtless know, was brutally murdered in February. John Philips, her stepfather, read Laken’s last journal entry from December 2023:

“To my future husband, I want you to know that I’m thinking about you and working every day to become the best wife I can be ... and focusing on God and what he defines as a faithful Christian wife, so that I can best embody those characteristics.”

### Athletes publicly giving praise to God...

Brock Purdy, Jameis Winston, C. J. Stroud... these NFL quarterbacks stand out, with some other athletes, who regularly give God the glory for whatever success they enjoy from playing football. Winston said this week, on Thursday Night Football, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding,” quoting Proverbs 3:5.

Do I like hearing that? Of course! We don’t know their particular religious affiliation but this is so much better than the profanity-filled tirades (bleeped out on national TV) we hear from players and coaches in this and other sports.

Some of these athletes take it too far, perhaps, when they imply that God gave them the win, but I’ve noticed that many of them are thanking God, win or lose, and it’s encouraging to hear athletes who are not ashamed to proclaim their belief in God on a national stage.

Dp



Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

“Bonhoeffer,” the movie, came out yesterday. We went to see it with some friends from church. Here’s my quick review, *for what it’s worth*: On the minus side, it starts off kind of slow with some scenes that don’t seem to fit the main point of the movie. The screenwriter chose to use an approach where the scenes jump from Bonhoeffer’s youth to his later life and back again. It was a little hard to keep tabs on what part of Bonhoeffer’s life we were watching at any given time. However, the movie picked up steam and turned out to be well worth watching with a really important message. If anyone asked, I would give it about a 7.5 out of 10 rating. — dp