

# WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

**9:00 AM**

**Song Leader:**  
Bailey Steger

**Scripture Reading:**  
Chevis Webb  
Genesis 4:3-12

**Prayer:**  
Jim Barton

**Lesson:**  
Stacey Durham

**Title:**  
*Called Out of Darkness*  
*Lesson 3 – Called From*  
*Violence to Peace*

**Closing Prayer:**  
Ron Hunt

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**Wednesday, March 10**

**Song Leader:**  
John Fix

**Invitation:**  
Ron Dixon

**Prayer:**  
Andrew Durham

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**Lord's Supper Preparation**  
**March:** Wright/Huffines  
**April:** Duryea

**11:00 AM**

**Song Leader:**  
Andrew Durham

**Scripture Reading:**  
Al Cotten  
1Corinthians 13:1-10

**Prayer:**  
Louis Long

**Lord's Supper:**  
Thom Steger  
John Fix

**Lesson:**  
Jim Stubblefield

**Title:**  
*Song Service - Invitation*

**Announcements:**  
Ron Dixon

**Closing Prayer:**  
Bill Duryea

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**Usher for This Week:**  
Thom Steger

# Creekview *BULLETIN*

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## Don't Wait!

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James wrote, "You are a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (Jas. 4:14). Because "you do not know what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1), you need to make sure you are right with the Lord today. Don't wait for another time - you may not get it.

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## To Our Visitors

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We at Creekview rejoice that you have come our way today. We welcome you into our assemblies and pray that God will bless us together as we worship Him in spirit and in truth.

MARCH

7

2021

VOL. 36  
NUM. 10



### SERVICE TIMES

#### SUNDAYS:

WORSHIP: 9:00 AM  
BIBLE STUDY: 10:00 AM  
WORSHIP: 11:00 AM

#### WEDNESDAYS:

BIBLE STUDY: 7:00 PM

## Interpreting the Lord's Delay

At any moment in time, a lot of bad things are happening in the world. This is to be expected, for we know that "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (1John 5:19). We also know that this will not continue forever, for "the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus" (2Thess. 1:7-8).

However, the Lord still has not returned. It has been nearly two thousand years since Jesus ascended to heaven. For people, that is an enormous amount of time, equivalent to twenty-five long lifetimes. How shall we interpret this long delay by our Lord?

Unrepentant sinners interpret the Lord's delay to mean they can sin with impunity. Their attitude is captured in Ecclesiastes 8:11, which says, "Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil." Because they have gotten away with their evil deeds for so long, they scoff at the idea of a coming Judgment.

Some Christians interpret the Lord's delay to mean that His return is imminent. They think, "Surely the Lord will not put up with this much longer." The more evil the world becomes, the more likely it seems to them that Jesus will return immediately to put an end to it.

Others become weak in faith because of the Lord's delay. The injustice of the world is too much for them. Because the Lord allows evil to continue, they begin to doubt (Eccl. 8:14). They think perhaps that the Lord will never return.

All of these reactions to the Lord's delay are wrong, but the correct interpretation of it is given in 2Peter chapter 3. It is summarized by verse 9:

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

The Lord's delay is simply the evidence of His great patience toward sinners. He is waiting so that they will have the maximum opportunity to hear the gospel, repent, and be saved from God's wrath. He has no pleasure in the death of sinners, so He waits so that more of them may live (Ezek. 18:23, 32; 33:11).

This meaning is vital to our faith. It means that God is not permissive

toward sinners. His delay is not an indication that they will never be punished. It also means that God is not just waiting until the world gets so bad that He cannot stand it anymore. He has a goal in mind, and that is the salvation of as many sinners as possible. Moreover, it means that the Lord will not wait forever. His delay should not be a cause for doubt.

So then, let us interpret the Lord's delay correctly. "Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation" (2Pet. 3:15). This is a time for all of us to prepare for His coming so that we will be ready always (2Pet. 3:11-14). His patience should only inspire our patience according to James 5:7-8:

<sup>7</sup>Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. <sup>8</sup>You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

*Stacey E. Durham*

### ELDERS:

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John Fix  
Stacey Durham

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Kevin Hayes  
Thom Steger  
Doug Thweatt

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## news & notes

- Daylight Saving Time starts next Sunday. Spring forward!
- Today during the 11AM hour, we will have our monthly song service.
- Please keep the following members in your prayers: Barbara Atkins, Jeri Baker, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, Kay Lanisus, and Shirley Smith. Also remember Jody Baize, Mishae Nevils, Wayne Wright, and Dot Long's sister Melissa.
- If you missed anything, all of Creekview's sermons, classes, and articles are available on our website and/or our Facebook page.

## reading plan

Sunday - 1Corinthians 3-4  
Monday - Genesis 36-39  
Tuesday - Ruth  
Wednesday - Psalms 27-29  
Thursday - Job 19-20  
Friday - Isaiah 51-55  
Saturday - Matthew 26-28

## meetings

*None to announce*