



The church that enters the unknown

In 2005, Hollywood director Steven Soderbergh (*Ocean's Eleven*, *Traffic*) released the film **Bubble**. It was a low-budget, grassroots film about a disastrous love triangle in a small town. Nothing terribly unusual or original there. What set the film apart was the way it was released.

Bubble appeared simultaneously in theatres and on cable television. The DVD release was planned for a few days later. This was a completely unorthodox way of releasing a new movie! Normally, first-run features aren't sold to television or released onto home video for six to eight months. What was the reason for this radical shift in thinking and releasing?

Dwindling box-office receipts and rampant piracy forced the producers and distributors to try something new. In an article entitled "The movie that enters the unknown" on CNN.com, director Soderbergh was quoted as saying: "The biggest thing is people having access to the movie who might not have access to it for a while. They might have read about it and they're interested, but don't live near an art cinema...or don't have a video store that carries it. This way they can get a hold of it as soon as they've heard about it."

Film and television producers aren't afraid to try something new in order to attract and interest viewers, as evidenced by the unique releasing tactics of **Bubble**.

continued

From Pastor Todd, continued

Or by such hit shows as “Games of Thrones” or “Orange Is the New Black.” They are willing to risk the acceptable, to step into the unknown, in order to turn a profit.

I wonder why the church rarely has this kind of risk-taking attitude? Shouldn't the church – led by Jesus Christ and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit – be the most dynamic, progressive, dangerous and innovative thing in society? Yet we tend to be the most calcified and inflexible. What would the church (and the world!) look like if we risked more for the sake of Jesus Christ, and worried less about appearing acceptable in the eyes of society? If a Hollywood movie can break barriers with the way it's released, why can't the church break barriers with the way we do evangelism? Or preach? Or minister to others? Or worship?

I'll leave you with this quote. It comes from *A Divine Confrontation: Birth Pangs of the New Church* by Graham Cooke:

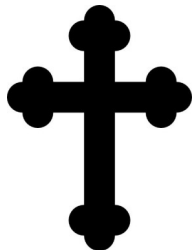
“Many of us will confess that we are more familiar with how the church works, than we are with God. ...If the church has not changed significantly in the past five to ten years, you must question its corporate relationship with God. ...God is moving us from one dimension of relationship with Him into another realm of Holy Spirit activity in church life. To bridge that gap, He is messing with our mind-sets and comfort zones. When our comfort zone is disturbed, so is our personal security. This leads us to ask questions about the foundations of our security. Is our security in what we are doing, in the familiar of church life, or locked into the heart of God?”

Is your security and faith in buildings, traditions, or comfort? Or is it in the creative, passionate, risk-taking God of eternity? Just something for us to think about as we begin a brave new year.

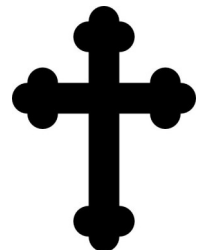


A cinquain by Brody Dotson

A “cinquain” is a five-line poem that doesn't rhyme and includes adjectives, verbs and short phrases.



“God
Holy Father, Holiness
Loving, caring, thoughtful
He is good
God”



January Birthdays

3 Alma Gann
10 Todd Kingrea
13 Glenn Brumlow
14 Martha Nunley
19 Martha Sheeks
26 Paul Smith
Madison Seale
28 Sherrill Card



January Anniversaries

14 Ray & Nancy Woodall

February Birthdays

9 Kathy Jones
13 Virginia Gram
16 Serena Wood
18 Sue Harper
19 Suzie Weber
Stephanie Parrott
21 Betty Smith
Amanda Jolly
26 Brett Kingrea
28 Andrew Stulce

February Anniversaries

5 Kevin & Kathy Jones



Reach Out

REACH OUT—and touch the stars in the dark winter sky.

REACH OUT—and feel a snowflake melt in your hand.

REACH OUT—and breathe in the cold heady air of February.

REACH OUT—and let Him touch you—gently, lovingly, firmly, permanently.

REACH OUT—and let the fresh wind of the Spirit sweep the cobwebs from
your mind, body and spirit.

REACH OUT—and let the Word speak to you with words of power, conviction,
meaning, truth, love, joy and life.

REACH OUT—and breathe your new life—His life—into another.

REACH OUT—and place your arm around the one you love.

REACH OUT—and touch the untouchable, the unlovable, the lost, the
frightened, the weak, the overbearing, the aging, the dying, the comic,
the phony—with His love and care.

REACH OUT—and sing a new song from the bottom of your soul and from the
top of your soaring spirit.

REACH OUT—and march side by side with the searchers, the mourners, and
the helpers.

REACH OUT—and tell the truth about yourself, your triumphs, your Leader,
your Savior, your Power and your Joy.

REACH OUT—and don't stop reaching out until your arms have become His
arms, your love His love, His death your death, His resurrection your
resurrection, and until every person has come to know and believe that
He is reaching out to them forever

Prayer: *Lord, help me to reach out! Amen.*







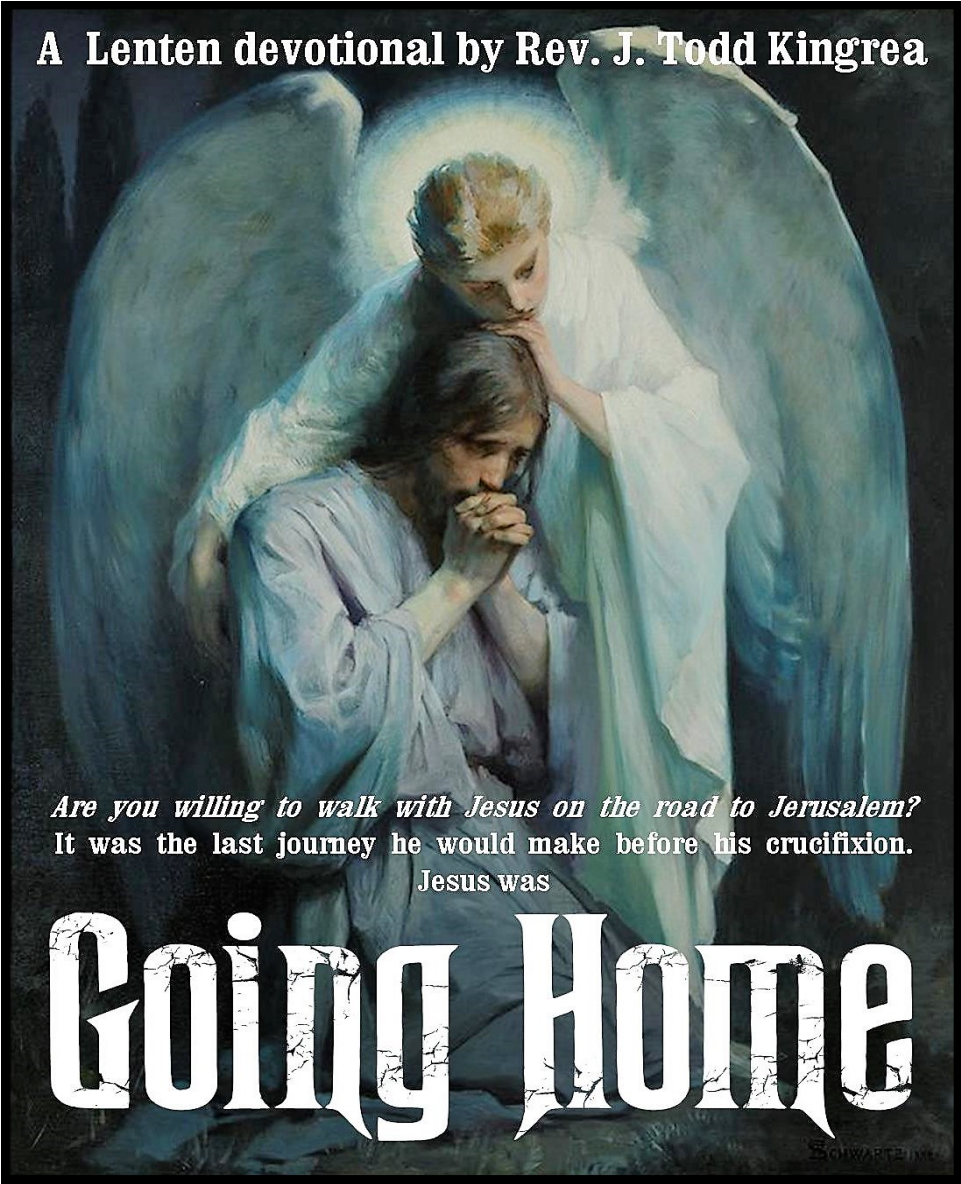
Lenten devotional: Going Home

Pastor Todd has written a Lenten devotional that will be available to anyone who would like a copy. The devotional begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Easter Sunday. There is a Scripture reading for every day in Lent, along with devotional thoughts, questions for individual or group reflection, and prayer points.

We will begin taking orders on Sunday, January 21st. *There is no cost for the devotional, but due to its size we will only print the number of devotionals requested. A regular size version (95 pages) will be available, as well as a LARGE PRINT version (135 pages).*

Devotionals will be available for pick up beginning Sunday, February 11th.

A Lenten devotional by Rev. J. Todd Kingrea



*Are you willing to walk with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem?
It was the last journey he would make before his crucifixion.*

Jesus was

Going Home

We all relate to home in one way or another.

It may be the home we grew up in or the one we have made with our spouse, children and pets.

We may understand home as the place to which we can always return, no matter how much we have messed up.

We may think of home as the place "where the heart is."

*Jesus steadfastly set out for Jerusalem to meet his final destiny. **The Son of God was going home to the Father.***



Monday, January 1st

NEW YEARS DAY

Tuesday, January 2nd

Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, January 3rd

Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

Sunday, January 7th

"Certainty For The Uncertain"

Tuesday, January 9th

Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, January 10th

Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

Sunday, January 14th

"One Against 6,000"

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 16th

Marthas & Marys; AARP; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, January 17th

Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

Thursday, January 18th

United Methodist Women

JANUARY 19th—21st

RESURRECTION 2018

Tuesday, January 23rd

Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, January 24th

Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

Sunday, January 28th

"Living Expectantly"

Tuesday, January 30th

Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, January 31st

Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth





February



Sunday, February 4th

"What Do You Want Me To Do For You?"
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Tuesday, February 6th

Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, February 7th

Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

Sunday, February 11th

"There Goes The Neighborhood"
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meeting

Tuesday, February 13th

Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, February 14th

Fellowship dinner
ASH WEDNESDAY worship service
Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 18th

LENTEN SERMON SERIES:
CHOOSE CAREFULLY
"The Man Who Prepared To Die"

Tuesday, February 20th

Marthas & Marys; AARP; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, February 21st

Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

Thursday, February 22nd

United Methodist Women

Sunday, February 25th

Girl Scout Sunday
LENTEN SERMON SERIES:
CHOOSE CAREFULLY
"What's Behind Door #1?"

Tuesday, February 27th

Marthas & Marys; AARP; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, February 28th

Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

