

Announcements!

Weekly Bible Study We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study, held upstairs each Tuesday evening beginning at 6 pm. We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

Children's Church Children's Church is available upstairs on the 2nd-5th Sundays starting at 11:00 am. Ages 2-10 are welcome to attend. Please sign your children in and out. A snack is served. Please pick up your children promptly after services. ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED. If you are interested in serving in Children's Church, please see Sarita Agee.

Words of Wisdom: Stress Reduction Plan...

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say No, to projects that won't fit into your time schedule, or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you to do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.,
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. Do something for the Kid in You everyday.
16. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
17. Get enough exercise.
18. Eat right.
19. Get organized so everything has its place.
20. While driving, listen to a tape that can help improve your quality of life.
21. Write thoughts and inspirations down.
22. Every day, find time to be alone.
23. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.
24. Make friends with Godly people.
25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you, Jesus!"
27. Laugh.
28. Laugh some more!
29. Take your work seriously, but yourself not at all.
30. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
31. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
32. Sit on your ego.
33. Talk less; listen more.
34. Slow down.
35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
36. Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.



Welcome to the

Everlasting Covenant Church



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Follow Us: "The Everlasting Covenant Church", Birmingham, AL

"THE_ECC2015"

Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor

January 13, 2019

Vision Statement:



*Enhancing Our Knowledge of Jesus Christ,
Empowering All Believers for Ministry, and
Encouraging Continuous Dedication to the Lord.*

Order of Services

Fellowship | Refreshments — 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School — 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Services — 11:00 a.m.

Announcements & Recognition of Visitors

Call to Worship: Scripture Reading & Prayer

Tithes and Offerings; Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praise and Worship Selections

Sermon

Invitation to Christ

Benediction

Church Service...

Taken from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/what-was-a-church-service-like-in-the-second-century/>

I'm really enjoying N.R. Needham's 2,000 Years of Christ's Power, Vol. 1: Age of the Early Church Fathers, part of a very accessible but well-informed multi-volume survey of church history. On pp. 66-75 he outlines a fairly typical church service in the second century (A.D. 101-200), based on descriptions and instructions found in the early Church fathers. I thought it might be helpful to outline it below.

The service of worship on Sunday lasted about 3 hours in total, with the typical posture being standing throughout. There were no musical instruments, and the Lord's Supper was observed every week.

The first part, "The Service of the Word," was open to three groups: (1) baptized believers; (2) those receiving instruction in the Christian faith; and (3) (probably) those who were merely curious about Christianity.

The second part of the service, "Prayers and the Eucharist," was only open to believers who had been baptized. The rest had to leave. Needham writes that the early church understood congregational prayer as "participating by the Holy Spirit in the glorified Christ's own heavenly ministry of prayer"—something unbelievers could not share in since they did not have the Spirit.

Part 1: Service of the Word - 1. Opening greeting by bishop and response by the congregation. Often, the bishop would say "The Lord be with you" and the congregation would respond, "And with your spirit." 2. Old Testament Scripture reading. Usually read or chanted by a deacon. 3. Psalm or hymn (I). Chanted or sung. 4. New Testament Scripture reading (I). This first NT reading was from any NT book outside the gospels. 5. Psalm or hymn (II). 6. New Testament Scripture reading (II). From one of the four gospels. 7. Sermon. Delivered by the bishop, while seated. 8. Dismissal of all but baptized believers.

Part 2: The Eucharist - 1. Congregational prayers. The prayer leader—the bishop in the West; senior deacon in the East—would announce the first topic. The congregation prayed silently for a while. Then the leader summed up the petitions with his own spoken prayer. Then he would do the same pattern again with a new topic. This was a lengthy part of the service. Early Christian art suggests that a typical posture from praying was standing, looking heavenward, with arms outstretched and palms up. 2. The Lord's Supper. Here's the order: (1) the bishop offered a greeting; (2) the congregation responded; (3) there was a "kiss of peace" (men to men, women to women); (4) church members brought their own small loaf of bread and flask of wine from home; the deacons took these and spread them out on the Lord's table, emptying the flasks of wine into one large silver cup. (5) The bishop and the congregation engaged in a liturgical "dialogue" with the congregation; (6) the bishop led the congregation in prayer; (7) the bishop and the deacons broke the bread and distributed the cup to the congregation. (8) Something would be said to each member as he or she received the elements (e.g., "The bread of heaven in Christ Jesus," with the response of "Amen.") Unconsumed bread and wine would be taken home by church members to use for celebrating communion at home during the weekdays. 3. Benediction. E.g., "Depart in peace," spoken by the deacon.

Sermon Notes

Scripture: _____

Subject: _____

Notes: _____
