

Garden Park Ward Newsletter

December 13, 2020



"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." John 8:12

Dear Garden Park Ward,

Most years at this time, I reread the classic story "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. It tells the story of a pair of poor newlyweds barely holding it together financially, who possess two treasures—Della's long, beautiful hair and Jim's gold pocket watch. Having no money, but unable to bear a Christmas without giving a gift to Jim, Della sells her hair and buys a watch chain for Jim's watch. Meanwhile, Jim sells his watch to buy expensive, jeweled combs for Della's hair. At Christmas, they foolishly find they have lost their two family treasures and are in possession of two gifts they cannot use. And yet, O. Henry tells us they gave truly good gifts—the wisest gifts of all—because they sacrificed their only treasures for someone they loved.

Sacrifice is the essence of truly good gift giving. Think of the mother who stays up many nights in a row sewing a quilt, or the child that spends their precious allowance to buy a toy for a sibling. Whether or not the gift lasts or is even used, the significance of the sacrifice is undeniable.

As we celebrate Jesus's birth, we may find ourselves thinking of another classic Christmas song that asks, "What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would give him a lamb. If I were a wise-man, I would do my part. But what can I give him? Give him my heart." Jesus declared to the Nephites, "And ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit." It's a truly good gift we can all try to give this year, regardless of our circumstances.

As we enter into the darkest days of the year, we hope you'll find peace, joy, love, and light in the knowledge that our Savior knows how to give truly good gifts, and that through the greatest of sacrifices, we can receive the gift of forgiveness and eternal life.

Warmly,
Randy Peterson and the Garden Park Bishopric

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Sunday Service Announcement—December 13th

The health and safety of our most vulnerable ward members continues to be our top priority. We continue to make periodic adjustments to procedures in response to changing conditions and guidance from church and government leaders. Most recently, we moved to broadcasting church services from the chapel, with the vast majority of ward members participating from home via zoom. The feedback we received has been largely positive, with most participants enjoying the opportunity to worship with all family members in the safety and comfort of their homes.

We have received instruction from stake leadership to provide the option to attend in person for those who wish. In response, those wishing to attend church in the chapel are invited to do so. We will continue to broadcast Sacrament meeting via zoom. Given the very high coronavirus transmission rate, we anticipate that the vast majority of us will elect to continue participating via zoom for now, but anyone wishing to attend in person will be most welcome.

So we can plan accordingly, if you would like to attend Sacrament meeting in the chapel, please let a member of the bishopric know by call or text. Those attending will need to observe infection control measures including social distancing, wearing face masks, using hand hygiene, staying home while ill.

Whether you join by zoom or in person, we look forward to worshipping with you.

Bishop Graham, 801.514.7994
Randy Peterson, 781.720.9108
Chris Furstenau, 801.330.1968
Mark Hindley, 801.599.8175

[Click here to join December 13th Sacrament Meeting](#)

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Sunday Service Program—December 13th

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

GARDEN PARK WARD

✻ Sacrament Meeting Program ✻

December 13, 2020, 10am

Conducting Randy Peterson
Organist Samuel Johnson
Opening Hymn (organ only) O, Come, All Ye Faithful, No. 202
Invocation TBA
Ward Business Brother Peterson

Speaker Kristine Orton

Speaker Kent Orton

Closing Hymn (organ only) Once in Royal David's City, No. 205

Benediction TBA

Zoom broadcast is concluded

Sacrament Hymn (organ only) How Great the Wisdom and the Love, No. 195

Administration of the Sacrament

*The true spirit of Christmas is in the call of Jesus to
"love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12).
-- the First Presidency of the Church Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,
Christmas message, November 27, 2020*

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Relief Society

Dear Sisters,

I hope everyone is doing well. We encourage everyone to stay safe and healthy. Avoid social gathering and if you can, please get tested. Places like [testutah.com](https://www.testutah.com) are providing free testing. The State of Utah (Medicaid Utah) is also providing free medicare coverage for those who don't have insurance to be able to get tested.

This week in our Come Follow Me study guides, we are studying Moroni chapter 7-9. Learning about having the Spirit with us is very important to help us discern between good and evil. I have learned that things are not always black and white; Life is full of many shades of gray. I have found very helpful to always ask the Spirit to guide me with my decisions. As a human, I am prone to have biases that stop me from doing what is right. We all hear the Spirits in different ways: Some heard a voice, others get a feeling, some received personal revelation through dreams and so on. The most important thing is to always be open to listen to the spirit of the Lord.

Ask for guidance. The Lord won't leave us alone.

Abrazos,

Kathy, Amy, Barbara, and Jenny
The Relief Society Presidency
of the Garden Park Ward

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Elders Quorum

Dear Brothers (and Sisters),

I'd like to thank you all for your support with opening and closing the ward grounds. Your love and support has been felt and deeply appreciated. Thank you as well for your patience with my cheesy advertising. It was meant to be funny and light hearted and it was much easier to write than something more substantial and spiritual. We have had numerous blessings in the form of President Nelson's message on gratitude, a stake conference with inspirational messages from leaders and members, the First Presidency Christmas devotional and personal interactions with friends, family and neighbors.

The EQ will be teaching the Zoom lesson on December 27 from October 2020 conference. If you would like to teach, please let me or Emilio Nicoli know ASAP.

Doug Bunker and G.P. Ward Elders Quorum Presidency

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please reach out to your ministering families and anyone else you feel moved to - even better, let us know how you and they are doing.
- Welfare Square assignment on December 29, 2020 9am-12pm at the bakery. Six volunteers needed. Please let me know if you can attend. Call/text Doug at 801-910-7128.

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Young Women

Young Women Sunday Meeting

Nicole Paul will lead our Sunday Zoom discussion **tomorrow at 12:30** p.m.

The topic will be **Moroni 7-9: ["How Can I Develop Christlike Love?"](#)**

Zoom info to come -- hope you can join us!

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Ward Joint Zoom Meeting

This week's meeting is sponsored by our Relief Society and features Emily Lund as our presenter.

December 13, 2020 at 11:15 a.m.

'Eyes to See' by Michelle Craig

Garden Park Ward is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

[Click here to join December 13th Ward Zoom Meeting](#)

If you're having challenges connecting to Zoom here's a link to a tutorial to help get connected <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>.

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Happy Birthday!

December 1—Nicholas Heiner
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December 2—Tilda Wilson
December 3—Josh Campbell
December 5—Pamela Miller
December 8—Quinton Ruiz
December 10—Eames Patch
December 12—Sophie Shenkal
December 15—Jasmine Linam
December 17—Ralph Robbins
December 17—Lauren Zollinger
December 19—Nikki Peterson
December 20—Geoff Parker

December 22—Kimberly Silcox
December 25—Noelle Barry
December 25—Lark Galli
December 27—Amy Coady
December 27—Aaron Cummings
December 28—David Hopkins
December 28—Emily Marchant
December 29—Paul Richardson
December 29—Gerald Walsh
December 30—Maddie Waltman
December 31—David Chipman
December 31—Sally Epperson

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Tithing Settlement

Tithing Settlement—The Bishop is looking forward to meeting with each of you, as families if possible. Please sign up for a time slot for tithing settlement by Zoom by [clicking here](#). If you have any questions please call or text Mark Hindley at 801.599.8175.

Appointment times are available on the following dates:

Sunday, December 13, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 17, 6:00—9:00 p.m.

Please access your tithing records on your account at churchofjesuschrist.org prior to your meeting with the Bishop referring to Rob Jones' instructions below if needed.

Please contact Ralph Robbins, at 801.664.6700, if you need help accessing or creating your account.

How to print a Statement of Contributions:

1. Go to churchofjesuschrist.org
2. Click on "My Account and Ward" (upper right hand corner)
3. Click on "Donations" under My Ward tab
4. Sign into your Church account
5. Click on Donor Statements
6. Select "Statement of Contributions" under Statement Type
7. Select "Current Year"
8. Click "Generate Statement"
9. Under "Generated Statements" select the top PDF to open the statement
10. Verify donations are accurate
11. Print report if you would like to have it for your Tithing Settlement meeting with the Bishop

If you have any questions, please contact our ward finance clerk, Rob Jones at 801.231.9628.

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Ward Announcements

The Bountiful temple is performing live ordinances *by appointment only*. Please refer to the [church website](#) for more details and updates on ongoing changes.

Sacrament Administration From our Area President, Elder Holzapfel: "The sacrament can be offered to families who have not had the opportunity in their homes . . . The First Presidency has authorized the administration of the sacrament at least monthly." The sacrament may still be blessed and passed by your own family members that are able to do so. If you would like the sacrament brought to your home, please contact Relief Society President Kathy Younker (801.971.1504) or Elders Quorum President Doug Bunker (801.910.7128), and they will help make arrangements for you to receive it.

Although Garden Park Ward building is closed for ward activities, we understand that families occasionally use the gym for their family activities of fewer than 10 people. When using the ward building for family activities please bring a garbage bag from home and take home with you any trash that you may create, i.e. wrappers, paper towels, etc. We do not want garbage to accumulate while we are not on our normal cleaning routine. The bathroom under the stage may be used if necessary. Please wipe down all door knobs, and surfaces that you touch with the wipes on the kitchen counter, before and after use. Thank you for keeping each other safe.

Temple recommends continue to be available. Even though temples are currently closed, our Stake Presidency is encouraging all to keep their recommends current. Recommend interviews are being held by phone at this time, both at the ward and stake level. If yours is expired, please contact Mark Hindley at (801) 599-8175 to set up a phone interview with the Bishop. In addition, for years the Stake Presidency followed a practice of first come first serve for temple recommend interviews on Sunday afternoons. They have eliminated that practice during the pandemic. The current procedure, which is in effect until further notice, is for the member to contact either President Parker or President Patch and directly schedule a renewal interview. They should contact them via cell phone, by sending a text message. (Their numbers are in LDS Tools.)

There are many great resources available at churchofjesuschrist.org for enlightenment and studying the gospel.