

Ministers:  
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley  
217.493.8905

Sunday:  
8:00 AM: WGCY  
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:  
6:30 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof  
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofchrist.com)

**This Past Week:**  
Worship-24  
Wednesday-16

**For meditation:**  
**Ecclesiastes 10.18-19**  
Those who major in  
enjoyment often have  
no time for employ-  
ment. Many think they  
can eat, drink, and be  
merry and if they get  
into trouble, money  
will bail them out.

**Radio program:**  
WGCY FM, 106.3  
Sundays at 8 AM

## *Moonlight sonata*

The best radiance streaming from the sun  
and the best the moon has to offer.

Deuteronomy 33.14 (Peterson)

“Since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, in all the signs and wonders which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of the Lord.”

In the Valley of the Kings, it’s hard to walk ten feet without stumbling over the tomb of a pharaoh, but no one has ever stumbled over the tomb of Moses, for “no one knows his grave to this day” (Deut. 34.6). But that’s okay, because we know where to find his farewell address written shortly before his death (Deut. 33).

One of the more striking phrases is when he mentions, “The best the moon has to offer.” No one doubts the value of the light and warmth provided by the sun, but the subtle influences of the moon are often overlooked. We sing the dirge, “Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh . . .,” but God’s work doesn’t stop at sundown. Sunset isn’t the end of it for God or us. And though the night may hide the sun, it also brings out a thousand stars.

In a few days I’ll say a few words about my friend, Richard, who left us suddenly this week. Richard had numerous challenges in his life, but he lived and grew every day, inspired by hope and excited over the coming glory. He enjoyed his time in the sun, but he found blessing in the moonlight, and that made each day memorable.

I thank God I knew Richard.

kenny

# Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

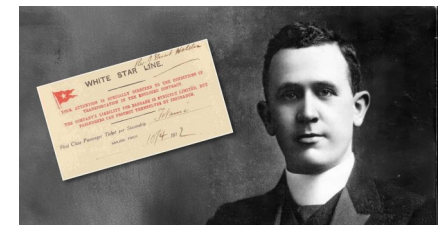
## *found in my reading . . .*

Charles Brown, writing of his friend, the Anglican preacher John Stuart Holden, said:

“He was a great friend. A friend who always saw the best in you when you did not see it in yourself; and he helped you to see it, and he lifted you up out of the depths again and again. If I had ever wanted a father confessor to whom I could lay bare my soul with all its miserable failings, its hopes and fears, and sins, if I were ever in any great distress, there is no man in London to whom I would sooner go than to Stuart Holden: I should be sure of understanding from him, sure of the right word, sure of guidance, sure of rebuke, perhaps, but also sure of help and comfort and hope.”

Isn’t this a great description of a true friend?

**Holden had purchased a ticket on the Titanic, which he canceled when his wife fell ill.**



Sermon: Matthew 5.21-22

## Exceeding righteousness

24 May 2026

## *A great text from Habakkuk*

The Lord is in His holy temple.

Let all the earth keep silence before Him. Habakkuk 2.20

### *The worship of silence*

Growing up with the old *Christian Hymns Number 2* hymnals, we often sang “The Lord Is in His Holy Temple.” It was only when I was grown and read Habakkuk that I learned where the lines came from. It was only when I was only when I thought about the lines that I larned the depths they conveyed.

There are times we ought to be quiet. Especially is this so when we find ourselves surrounded by turmoil, uncertainty, and upheaval. Habakkuk wanted to know how God could remain silent in the face of rampant injustice and evil, but God said, “Habakkuk, you’re the one who should keep quiet.”

#### A SILENCE THAT ACCEPTS DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Whereas most prophets were engaged in proclaiming answers, Habakkuk was intent on asking questions. He wanted to know, for instance, how God could use the more wicked man to punish the more righteous man (1.13). It seems a good question, but God’s answer was, “Trust Me” (2.4). When we doubt God’s ability to direct our life we start asking “Why?” But the reasons for our faith our so strong that during scary times, God wants us to say, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” (Job 13.15).

#### A SILENCE THAT’S FULL OF BLESSED ASSURANCE

Facing the grim realities of war, devastation, famine, and more, and hearing that the “just shall live by his faith” (2.4), the prophet responded with confidence and courage. “Let the worst come!” “The Lord God is my strength . . . and He will make me walk on my high hills” (3.19). By faith we hope for the best but are unbroken by the worst.

#### A SILENCE THAT GIVES GOD REVERENCE

Jesus has been through the valley of the shadow of death, and we can believe Him when He tells us not to be afraid of the dark. Only He can explain life to us; only He can take us to God, and we worship Him for that. I have an outline of Revelation entitled *Hallelujah Anyway!* and I can’t think of a better summary for Habakkuk’s message. “Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the Lord . . . in the God of my salvation” (3. 18). Hallelujah anyway!

kenny

## *That Anah?*

This is the same Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness while herding his father Zibeon’s donkeys.

### Genesis 36.24 (Peterson)

Granting that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable, it is nevertheless true that Bible genealogies are generally looked upon as useless lists of names that are hard to pronounce and as edifying to read as a phone book.

But every now and then we come across a gem in a genealogy that calls for special attention. Zibeon had two sons, Ajah and Anah, and not just any Anah, writes Moses, but *the* Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness while herding his father’s donkeys.

Here are three thoughts I have about *that* Anah.

#### AN UNENVIABLE DUTY

How many people grow up wanting to manage donkeys? Maybe Anah got the job because he wasn’t thought qualified to handle a more responsible task. But someone had to tend the donkeys, and Anah was given the chore. Just because you’re stuck in a mundane job doesn’t mean exciting things can’t come your way. Amos was tending sheep when God called him; and some Bethlehem shepherds saw things while watching sheep they never thought they’d see.

#### AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY

Anah found something in the *wilderness*. The Heb. word translated “hot springs” (above) occurs only here in the Bible. The KJV translates it “mules.” Strong’s says the meaning of the word is dubious, but the consensus of more modern translations tends towards “hot springs” or “oasis.” You don’t expect to find much in a barren wilderness, but it was in a wilderness that the forerunner of the Messiah was found.

#### AN UNCOMMON DELIGHT

People love hot springs so much they call them “spas.” I imagine when Anah saw the warm, bubbling, therapeutic water, he was in it lickety-split. I would have been.

And what’s to be learned from *that* Anah? Expect the unexpected in places where you least expect it. Be alive to blessings in a dead-end job, an adversary, an uninteresting person, a crisis, etc. In the language of the prophets, even the valley of Achor—trouble, affliction—can have a door of hope (Hos. 2.15).

kenny