

# GOSPEL<sup>OF</sup> JOHN

The gospel of John is written with a purpose. The writer states it clearly, "Jesus did many miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written here, but these are written so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing have life in his name." (20:30-31) Apparently, Jesus did many miraculous signs, many wonderful things. Things like casting out demons, giving sight to the blind, making the lame walk and the mute talk. He raised the dead and even cured the common cold. Because of these many miraculous signs many people believed in him. Others welcomed him.

And yet Jesus wants more. He doesn't seem to think that faith based on seeing signs is the best. That becomes clear at the end of the gospel when he appears to Thomas. Thomas insist on seeing the risen Jesus. He won't believe unless he can see and touch and know for himself, with his senses, that Jesus is truly alive. When he sees he believes. And then Jesus says, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus seems to say that not seeing and believing is the best. And yet Jesus did miraculous signs.

This tension fills our passage for today. In John 4:43-54 Jesus rebukes the Galileans for wanting to see signs and wonders. And then he does one in their midst. What is Jesus getting at? Why is he resisting and then accomodating? Why complain about faith based on signs if you do them? What more does Jesus want? What more is Jesus up to?

## Contact Information

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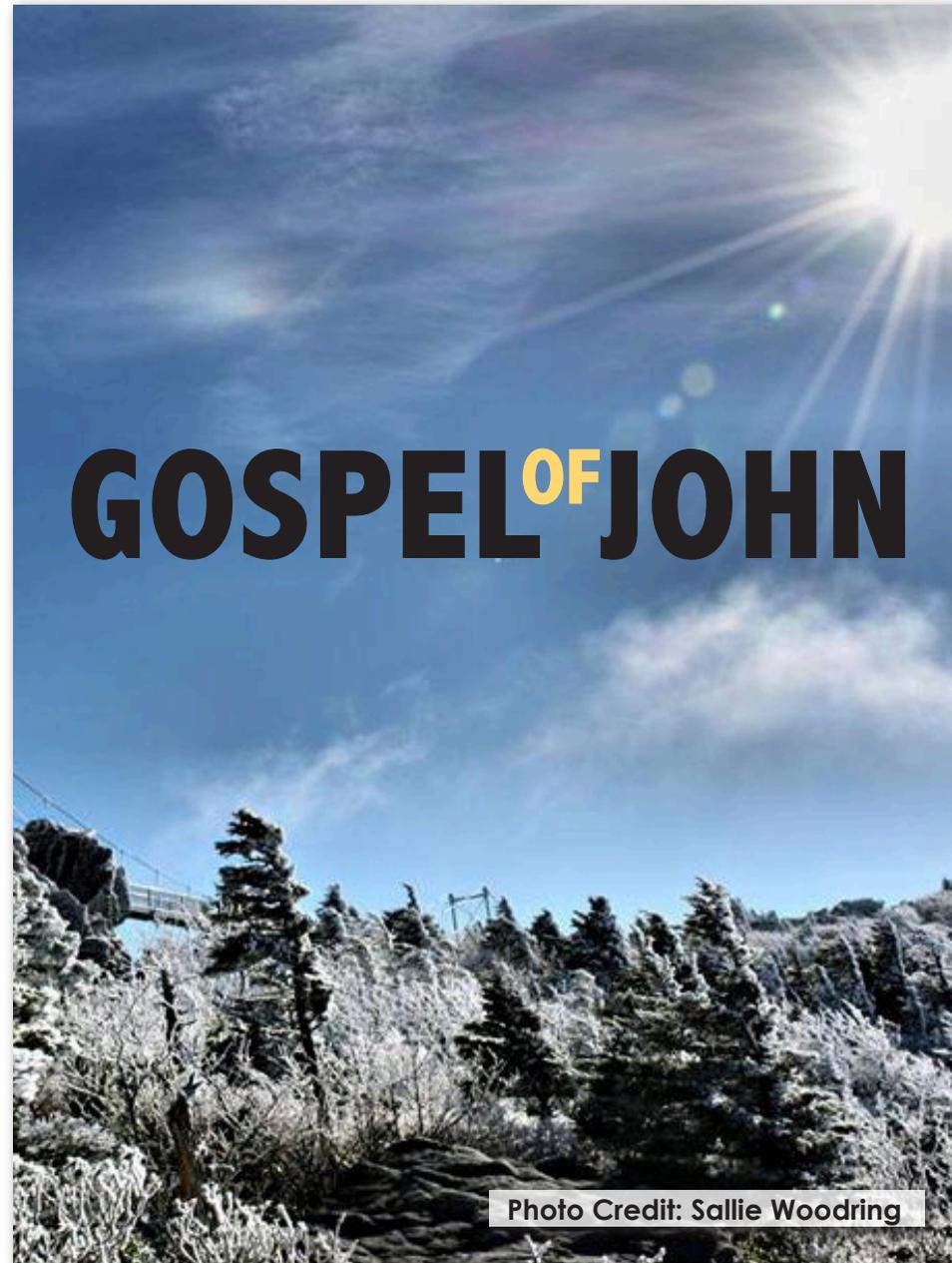


Photo Credit: Sallie Woodring



arbor dale PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 7, 2018

*Welcome!*

We are grateful that you joined us today for worship and would love to keep in touch.

We have a nursery for infants and toddlers. After the Passing of the Peace, Pre-K through 2nd Grade continue to worship upstairs.

After the service, please join us downstairs for refreshments provided by Arbor Dale's Joy Group.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Refreshments for next Sunday:**

Peace Group. Contact Isabel Peterson  
828-964-1402

### **Feeding Avery Families Schedule:**

- ♦ January Trucks - 3rd Thursday, around 10 a.m.
- ♦ January Packing - Friday Jan. 19 8:30 a.m.
- ♦ January Distribution - Friday Jan. 26 8:30 a.m.

There was extra distribution last Friday which resulted in 364 boxes of food reaching 710 individuals.

Other Announcements:

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## Prayer of preparation

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place.

Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened.

Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.

Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful find comfort.

Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.

Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Personal thoughts and prayer reminders

\* Congregation Stands

## Service for the Lord's Day — January 7, 2018

### Greeting

Leader: *The Lord be with you*

All: *And also with you.*

### Welcome & Announcements

#### \* Call to Worship

~from Psalm 19

Leader: *The heavens are telling the glory of God;*

All: *the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

Leader: *Day after day pours forth speech,*

All: *night after night declares knowledge.*

Leader: *There is no speech, nor are there words;*

All: *their voice is not heard;*

Leader: *Yet their voice goes out through all the earth*

All: *Yet their words go out to the end of the world.*

Leader: *The glory of God echoes throughout the world.*

All: *Let us praise the name of the Lord.*

\* Opening Hymn #21 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

\* Opening Prayer

\* Hymn of Praise #293 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

\* Call to Confession

*Today we celebrate that Jesus, our Lord, came to earth as a human, just like us but without sin. He came so that we who sin may be freed from sin. With the peace that comes from knowing Jesus came, let us confess our sins and be forgiven.*

\* Confession

*God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet you come in weakness. All season long we covet great material gifts, when you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may witness to your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

\* Assurance of Pardon

*The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

\* The Gloria Patri and Passing the Peace

Children's Sermon

Prayers of the People

Scripture and Sermon

Week 6 *John 4:43-54*  
*Always More*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Leader: *The Lord be with you*

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: *Lift up your hearts*

People: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Offering and Offertory

\* Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles Creed*

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.*

\* Hymn of Dedication

#581 *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

\* Benediction