

## An Alarming Love

### The Book of Joel

Sin is destructive.

*Joel 1:1-5; Joel 2:1-5, 11; Proverbs 3:11-12*

God wants you to return to Him.

*Joel 2:12-13; Romans 5:8-9*

God wants to restore your hope in Him.

*Joel 2:18-27; Joel 2:13; Joel 2:28-29, 32; Acts 2:16-21; Ephesians 1:13-14*

Becoming more like Jesus

*Joel 3:1-2, 12-16; 2 Peter 3:1-2, 8-10, 13-14, 18*

## Considerations for the week

**Disciplined.** Explore how discipline can be an act of love. How does God discipline us?

**Kindness.** Further explore God's discipline. How might it be a kindness? Read Romans 2:4.

**Restored, v. 2:25.** Restoration does not make everything from the past just go away. God restored the years eaten by the locusts. What does that restoration mean, since we cannot actually get the time back?

**The Spirit, v. 2:38, 32.** Joel delivers the prophecy and promise of the pouring out of God's Spirit upon all who call on him. Consider how this can encourage us and help us endure difficult times.

**On all flesh.** Why is the Spirit poured out on "all flesh" — sons, daughters, old, young, servants? In Joel's time, why would this prophecy have been considered radical?

**Repent.** What does real repentance look like? False repentance?

What is the difference between repentance and restoration? Contemplate how restoration comes to us and what our role is in it, if any.

What does it mean to live as someone who trusts that God will set all things right?

*Please use these considerations for personal reflection, small group discussions, and with friends and family.*

**Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love . . .**

— Joel 2:12-13, NIV

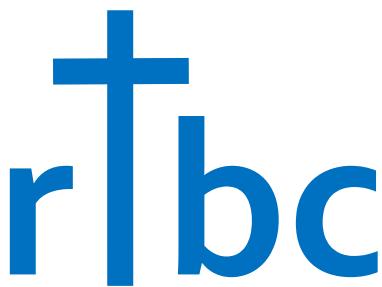
Scripture read today during worship:

Joel 2:26

Joel 2:12-13

## Prayer today

Members will be praying for us during the service today and also during the week. Please email us at [prayer@rtbchurch.org](mailto:prayer@rtbchurch.org) to let us know how we may pray for you.



## Today's order of service

Prelude, *Softly and Tenderly*

Call to worship

Hymn 8, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Confession and assurance

Hymn, *Days of Elijah*

Hymn, *Battle Belongs*

Offertory

Reading and prayer

Special music, *Gather the People*

Message

Hymn of response 336, *Jesus, I Come*

Benediction

Postlude, *Shout to the North*

**Family mission trip** McAllen, Texas, March 6-10. See Templegram or office for details. Sign up by February 20.

**Got the app?** You can download our free mobile app by searching for "RTBC" in the Apple or Android store.

Our website is at  
<https://rtbc.faith>



**VBS**

Our Vacation Bible School will be June 22-26.

**Clothing drive** benefitting Christian Community Service Center. Collection box is outside the church office. Now through February 24.

## Weekly events

Today after benediction, Cookies & Coffee, in parlor

Young adults fellowship, Monday at 6:45pm. Dinner and discussion for those in college or starting careers.

Mom's Day Out, Tuesday and Friday, 9am – 2pm pre-registration required

Women's Bible study, Tues. at 10 am or Thurs. at 7 pm

Wednesday

Kids' Music Class, 5-6 pm

Dinner, 5:30-6:30 pm. Menu: Beef stroganoff, egg noodles, veggies, salad, bread, dessert

Prayer, 6:30 pm in the prayer room

BLAST! Children's Bible study and fun, 6:00 pm

Ladies' international Bible class (Zoom), 6:45 pm

Sermon discussion on Zoom, 7 pm

Choir rehearsal, 7:45 pm

Joy Program, Thursday, 9am-noon, conversational English classes, Bible study, crafts, and handbells

Endurance men's Bible study, Thursday at 6pm

Focus: college-aged / young adult men

Young internationals Bible study, Saturday at 7 pm

Men's Bible study, every-other Saturday at 8 am  
Meets this week, February 21

Sunday morning

Adult Bible study, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:45 am

Children's Church at sermon time

**The church office has information on events.**

Phone: 713.559.6875 Email: [office@rtbchurch.org](mailto:office@rtbchurch.org)  
The office is open Tuesday - Friday, 9am-3pm