

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

The Rescuing Grace of God,
Ephesians 2:8-10 - Jeremy
Shelton

March 22, 2020

Ephesians: Into the Fullness
of Christ

Call to Worship - Bradley Bell

Good morning and thanks for joining this online meeting of Antioch Church. My name is Brad and I'm one of the pastors here. If this is your first time worshipping with us, we're so glad you're tuning in and we hope you feel a warm welcome. We'd love to get to know you more, so please connect with us by sending a Facebook message.

Church, this has been a strange week. The heaviness of the days and weeks to come is slowly settling in. Perhaps your head has been spinning with updates and the emotions that come with them. Or maybe you have felt simply numb in the face of all that's changing. Either way, we all find ourselves compelled to take refuge somewhere, like a flock of sheep on the run from danger.

So hear this word from Psalm 95 that speaks of the precise refuge we all need:

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Congregation:
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Congregation:
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand. Psalm 95:1, 3, 6-7

Church, we cannot claim to be the sheep of his hand by our own doing, but only by his grace alone. May that lead us to fill our homes with a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation...

Grace Alone

Confession - Bradley Bell

Times like these not only call us to resolute worship, but also to communal lament. Lament is a gritty act of faith that honestly brings our griefs to God as our only source of hope and comfort. Church, let's offer this lament together from Psalm 13:

How long, O LORD? Will you forget us forever?
How long will you hide your face from us?
How long must we take counsel in our souls
and have sorrow in our hearts all the day?
How long shall our enemy be exalted over us?

Sovereign Lord, in the face of this pandemic that seems to have gripped the whole world, we ask,

Congregation: How long, O Lord?

In regard to our fellow image-bearers both near and far who have already lost their lives, we ask,

Congregation: How long, O Lord?

In regard to the dangers facing the elderly, immune-compromised, and most vulnerable among us, we ask,

Congregation: How long, O Lord?

In regard to those who have lost income, opportunity, and security, we ask,

Congregation: How long, O Lord?

In regard to government leaders and medical professionals stretched beyond their means, we ask,

Congregation: How long, O Lord?

In regard to the fears and longings that come from prolonged isolation, we ask,

Congregation: How long, O Lord?

Consider and answer us, O LORD our God;
light up our eyes, lest we sleep the sleep of death,
lest our enemy say, "I have prevailed over them,"
lest our foes rejoice because we are shaken.

Congregation:
But we have trusted in your steadfast love;
our hearts shall rejoice in your salvation.
We will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with us. Psalm 13:1-6

Church, our prayers are welcomed before the throne of God above, because we have a great high priest who has dealt bountifully with us. Let's sing out our trust in him...

Before The Throne Of God

Sermon - The Rescuing Grace of God, Ephesians 2:8-10 - Jeremy Shelton

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Announcements & Benediction - Bradley Bell

[prayer]

Thank you for joining this online meeting of Antioch Church. As we always say, this is only a small part of the life of Antioch. We would love to have you in one of our Family Groups, where we truly seek to live out the Christian life together. Even though our Family Groups will not be gathering in homes as usual this week, we will still have online meetings through video-conferencing tools. If you would like to join in one of them, simply message us and we'll get you connected.

Church, here are a few important announcements before we conclude:

1) Remember that though the format of our gatherings have changed, the function of our church has not. So please continue to give generously through one of the following options: your bank's autopay option, GivApp, our website, or by check (mailed to 7315 Southside Dr, Louisville, KY 40214).

2) One of the unique opportunities before us during this season is to establish (or improve upon) our household rhythms of family worship. Later today we will send out resources for this, though we encourage you to utilize whatever you find helpful.

3) Each weekday on our Antioch Church, Louisville facebook page and antioch_church IGTV page I will be posting something called #DontWasteYourCrisis. These are short, daily videos that seek to open us to God and one another in intentional, practical ways. Please enrich these by sharing your own perspective and resources in the comments.

4) Just a quick reminder that the start time of our Sunday Gatherings will be changing from 10:15 to 10:30, beginning on Sunday, April 5th.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing. Church, you have been saved by grace through faith as a gift from God. And yet you are surrounded by neighbors who are perhaps realizing more than ever before their need for this grace. This week may you walk in the unique opportunities to love your neighbors, knowing these are the good works he planned for you before the world was even made. In other words, may you be someone else's evidence of grace this week.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: We are sent.
