

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

God is Near, Ephesians
2:11-18 - Bradley Bell

March 29, 2020

Ephesians: Into the Fullness
of Christ

Call to Worship - Jason Crigler

Good morning Antioch Church! Thanks for joining this online service. My name is Jason 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. We'd love to get to know you, so please connect with us by sending a Facebook message.

Church, hear the Word of the Lord from Deuteronomy 4:

For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?... "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Deuteronomy 4:7, 9

Church, just like God's Old Testament people, we can have confidence even in the midst of present uncertainties because God has come near to us through Jesus Christ. So let us not forget who God is and what he has done. We were far off, but he has brought us near by the blood of Jesus. He is our peace. And as we remember that truth, we can sing: How marvelous! How wonderful is our Savior's love for us!

I Stand Amazed (How Marvelous)

Confession - Worship Team

Hear this from Isaiah 57:

"Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way." For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite... Peace, peace, to the far and to the near," says the LORD... But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked." Isaiah 57:14-15, 19-21

Church, we have been brought near and given access in one Spirit to the Father. But so often, we fail to remember our new identity as family, that we have been given peace with God and with one another. Let's confess this together:

Forgive our faithlessness, O faithful God! And see beyond our apathy,

For our thoughtlessness and self-centeredness,
Congregation: forgive us.

For our forgetfulness and wrong choices,
Congregation: forgive us.

For our spitefulness and hostility toward others,
Congregation: forgive us.

Congregation: See into our hearts, and dwell there in peace. Amen.

Living Hope

Posturing Prayer - Worship Team

Sermon - God is Near, Ephesians 2:11-18 - Bradley Bell

Let The Nations Be Glad

Announcements & Benediction

[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 seek to live out the Christian life together. Even though our Family Groups aren't gathering in homes at this time, 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) Giving - Since we're not able to pass our giving baskets in a gathering, this is the time in our meeting when we remind one another to continue giving as we are able. The various ways you can do that are listed on the screen, but the most important way is with a glad and generous heart in response to what God has done for us.

2) MCT Prayer Gathering - We are having a special Missionary Care Team Prayer Gathering through Zoom this Thursday at 7pm. We want this to be one of the largest, most powerful MCT meetings we've ever had at Antioch—because (1) we know you have the time and (2) our missionaries need the prayer! For security this will be for covenant members only, so the link will be posted in our private Facebook page, AntiochFamily. For more info connect with our deacon of sending, Robbie Gouge.

3) Time Change - One last reminder that the start time of our Sunday Gatherings will be changing from 10:15 to 10:30, beginning next Sunday, April 5th.

4) Good Friday Celebration - Finally, we are excited to begin announcing that we will be having a Good Friday Celebration via livestream on Friday, April 10th. God took the worst thing that ever happened in the world—the death of Jesus Christ—and he turned it into the best thing that ever happened. That is good news we need to celebrate now more than ever.

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, this week as you remember that you were once far off but have been brought near by the blood of Christ, may you let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and may you be thankful for your diverse family, eager to serve it, and eager to welcome in new members of it. (Colossians 3:15)

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.
