

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

The Better Adam, Luke
4:1-13 - Bradley Bell

March 7, 2021

Luke: Upside Down

All I Have Is Christ

Call to Worship - Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Good morning and welcome to Antioch Church! As we enter into this gathering with words from our week lingering in our hearts and minds, let's reset by giving our attention to the words of God. Listen to what he says to his people whom he had allowed to wander in the wilderness for forty years:

And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Deuteronomy 8:2-3

You may be here today satisfied and sustained by God's words to you this week. Or perhaps you're here hungry and unfulfilled, wondering how long you're going to wander. Either way, God is calling to you afresh to be nourished by the Word that has come from him—the living Word, Jesus Christ. This Word always comes through, so let's sing to him...

Always

Confession - Hebrews 4:15-16

For those who are in Christ, hear this good news from Hebrews 4:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16

But in order for that to be good news, we first must acknowledge that we are sinners daily given to temptation, and often failing. Let's pray this together:

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan,

Congregation: come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations;

and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us,

Congregation: let each of us find you mighty to save;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (from the Daily Prayer app)

Before The Throne Of God

He Will Hold Me Fast

Evidence of Grace - John 17:22-23

You may be seated. Good morning, my name is Brad and I'm one of the pastors here. Sometimes in our Sunday Gathering we like to share an Evidence of Grace, this is something in the life of our church that is either a tangible expression of God's grace or a deep need for God's grace. For today, it's kind of both.

Almost exactly one year ago COVID-19 entered into our lives. And it has been a wild ride. Our church has walked through:

- sickness
- quarantine
- isolation
- virtual meetings
- job loss
- fear
- anxiety
- tension
- conflict

We must take a moment and recognize that it's only by God's grace that we arrive here together today.

As your pastors we also want to acknowledge two things that are struggling to co-exist. First, that this pandemic is not yet over. But second, that all of us are over it. We are tired of wearing masks and social distancing and zoom calls and being isolated from one another. And we recognize, especially in our current cultural climate, that this has the potential for major conflict among us.

Something that we think would be helpful for you to know, is that we as a plurality of pastors have not always held all the same views regarding COVID-19 and our response to it. And that means we have had to pursue intentional gospel relationships, spending hours seeking to understand one another and discerning together the best steps for our church. This we believe is the best way forward for us all: not to cancel each other or categorize each other, but to talk to each other and listen to each other.

We have also revisited the COVID-19 guidelines we set when reopening last summer. We will be reposting them on our facebook page and our website. As you might have noticed, there are parts of those guidelines that have already begun to fade—such as, we are serving coffee again, we are mobilizing greeters again, and we no longer require the use of only one entrance and one exit. We would also like to announce that we are changing the language of our guideline related to masks. Rather than “requiring” them, we are now “requesting” them when entering, exiting, and moving about the building. In doing this we ask that you not be flippant, but thoughtful, and prepared to talk with one another about your differences in the same way we have as pastors.

Our hearts' desire is that we would not get so close to what seems like the finish line of this pandemic, and then implode in our relationships with one another. We want to continue being a body who reflects unity in diversity, that we may be one even as the triune God is one, so that the world may know that Jesus has come and that he loves us. To that end, let's pray.

Sermon - Luke 4:1-13

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

You Never Let Go

Announcements & Benediction - Hebrews 2:18

Thank you for joining us today! 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. If you would like to join one of them, simply message us and we'll get you connected.

Here are just a few quick announcements:

1) Giving - Since we're not able to pass our giving baskets in our gathering at this time, we have placed them on the back table; you may give there as you exit, or you can give on our website or through GivApp.

If you are a visitor with us this morning we are glad you're here! Please if you would like to find out more about Antioch or have a pastor contact you, feel free to fill out a visitor card also located in the basket on the back table. You may use the Antioch pens and keep one as our gift to you.

2) Multiplication Training - As Brad mentioned earlier, this morning we had our Evangelism class led by Todd Robertson. Here's a follow up to that training that we are going to implement:

blesseveryhome.com/?cust=10900 - Put this link into your web browser right now or take a photo of it for later. This is Antioch's unique account to Bless Every Home, which allows you to pray for your neighbors by name and track opportunities you have to build intentional gospel relationships with them. This is a practical way for us to be a light in our neighborhood.

The next step in Multiplication Training is a class on discipleship next Sunday morning @9AM. If you missed that one before, now is your chance to make it up or just come and experience it again.

3) Also, next Sunday we will gather for an all-FG outreach. We are planning to prayer walk the neighborhoods and pass out door hangers to invite to our Good Friday and Easter gatherings. This will take the place of your normal scheduled FG time for that week. We will meet at the building at 5pm. Please everyone plan take part in this.

We begin each gathering with a Call to Worship and we end with a Benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing. If you would like to receive this benediction, I invite you to open your hands before you.

Church, because Jesus himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. May you go being helped, and being victorious. Based on Hebrews 2:18

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.
