

# Sunday Gathering Liturgy

The Mystery Revealed,  
Ephesians 3:1-13 - Bradley  
Bell

April 19, 2020

Ephesians: Into the Fullness  
of Christ

## Call to Worship - Jason Crigler

Good morning, and thank you for joining! My name is Jason, and I'm one of the pastors here. If you're anything like me, you may have started to feel discouraged and lonely, as you want this pandemic to end. But hear this word from Daniel and let its declaration of God's power and sovereignty call our hearts to worship the one God who reigns supreme over all things!

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. Daniel 2:20-22

## *Sooner Count The Stars*

### Confession - Jason Crigler

Hear the word of the Lord from Deuteronomy 29:29:

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Church, we desire to know when this will all be over, but that hasn't been revealed to us, and it's not for us to even know. So let's confess our want to be lord over our lives, rather than to drawing near to the Lord Jesus Christ and recognizing that he is enough.

[silent confession]

1 Corinthians 2:12 says,

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Now we confess that which the Lord has already revealed, that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we are his. This is more than enough for us.

## *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

## *Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me*

### Posturing Prayer - Jacob Harrod

### Sermon - The Mystery Revealed, Ephesians 3:1-13 - Bradley Bell

## *Before The Throne Of God*

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## **Assurance - Robbie Gouge**

Today's word of assurance was written by one of our distributed members serving in the Middle East. She writes to us,

Hear the word of the Lord from Psalm 46:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Suffering is suffering, regardless of what country you're in. It is unfair to compare and belittle what you're feeling, because it is very real to you. The entire world is suffering. It is ok to mourn the loss of comfort as long as it turns you back to the Father.

Take heart in knowing your brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are mourning the loss of their comfort as well. Many of them here cannot return to their home countries, because they will be imprisoned or even killed; their families have disowned them for leaving their former faith to embrace life with Christ; they have lost their jobs, because their employer does not want to employ Christians; many are homeless; yet they count it all joy to share in the sufferings of Christ.

I know suffering because of a global pandemic is different from suffering for your faith. I also do not mean to compare different forms of suffering. I just want to encourage with this: our brothers and sisters in the East have modeled how to suffer well, and we will do well to follow their examples. They praise God in the midst of it, knowing he will be glorified even when they can't see it.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. Psalm 46:2-5

## ***O Church Arise***

### **Announcements & Benediction - Jason Crigler**

[prayer]

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. 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, a few important announcements before we go:

- 1) As pastors we want to commend and thank you for your ongoing generosity, both toward the church and toward others. This allows us to continue taking care of our monthly expenses and meet needs both in the church and the community.
- 2) One exciting example of this, we are happy to announce that Jason Cox has been hired as our Facilities Manager. We expressed this goal in our December 2019 Family Meeting, and then Jason responded when it was listed on our Antioch Servant Needs list. You may not know this, but Jason has been carrying the weight of our livestream production, so his work at this time will be more related to that than to our facility. So Jason, congrats, and church, thanks for making this possible.
- 2) Finally, just another reminder to take advantage of our free two-month trial of the Dwell app, which helps you to listen to Scripture in a really powerful way. You can find the link to this on our AntiochFamily Facebook page.

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, hear this:

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. Romans 16:25-27

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.

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