

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

God's Dwelling Place,
Ephesians 2:19-22 - Bradley
Bell

April 5, 2020

Ephesians: Into the Fullness
of Christ

Call to Worship - Jason Crigler

Good morning Antioch Church! Thanks for joining this online meeting. My name is Jason and I'm one of the pastors here. Today is Palm Sunday! So hear this word from Luke 19 telling of when Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem riding a colt. It says this starting in verse 36:

And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near-already on the way down the Mount of Olives-the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." Luke 19:36-40

This morning, let's cry out, rejoicing in worship to our King who has entered our lives and done a mighty work in us!

Praise the Lord

Confession - Jason Crigler

Hear the word of the Lord from Isaiah 30:15:

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. (NIV)

Then in chapter 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned— every one— to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all.

Church, we all have gone astray this week in one way or the other. Whether it's been a sense of individualism or self-reliance, or self-pity and despair during this season. Whatever your sin struggles have been this week, we need to turn to Jesus, the Cornerstone, in faith and repentance. Let's take some time, wherever you are right now, and confess our sins to the Lord.

[silent confession]

Holy God, we confess our sin and need of your mercy. We cannot do life apart from you or your people. Through Christ, be pleased to dwell in me, in us. Amen.

Cornerstone

Posturing Prayer - Jason Crigler

Sermon - God's Dwelling Place, Ephesians 2:19-22 - Bradley Bell

Come to the Feast

Assurance - Jason Crigler

Today's word of assurance was written by one of our distributed members, Matt, serving in Southeast Asia. He writes to us,

Hear the word of the Lord from Zechariah 9:9-12:

"See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you."

Church, although chaos and fear surrounds you and death crouches at the door, this trepidation is not for you. Once you were bound to rumors, panic, and imprisoned in a pit of anxiety. Once you trusted in the capabilities of the government or your own hand to get you through a difficult season, but now oh church, "your king comes to you today, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt. The battle bow will be broken and peace is being proclaimed to the nations" Church, it is your sacred duty to affirm this hope today. Christ defeated the penultimate sickness of death so that you need not fear the reaper. Will you worship the life giving, hope renewing, faith restoring Christ with me today?

New Again

Announcements & Benediction - Jason Crigler

[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.

The rest of this week's announcements are all related to Easter week:

2) We are having our first ever Good Friday Celebration at 6:30 via Facebook Live. We will post details this week in our Facebook group about how to prepare for this special event.

3) Then on Sunday we'll be celebrating Easter by livestream at 10:30. Let's be in prayer for this unique opportunity to declare good news to a desperate world.

4) And finally, to help prepare your hearts for this celebration we have posted two free resources on our Facebook page. One is an ebook that follows each day of Jesus' path to the cross, and the second is a family devotional.

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.

Benediction

Revelation 21:3 - Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

There will come a day when the dwelling place of God will finally be with man; they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. Until that great day, may you be found welcoming others, that our Father's house will be filled.

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.
