

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

True Community, Ephesians
4:25-32 - Bradley Bell

May 24, 2020

Ephesians: Into the Fullness
of Christ

Call to Worship - New City Catechism Question #1

Good morning and welcome to Antioch Church! It's good to be back in the building, though I wish we could all be here together! Prior to Covid-19 we were using the New City Catechism in our liturgy because of how it coincides with the truths of Ephesians (and also to encourage you to use it in your homes). The first question reads,

What is our only hope in life and death?

Let's say the answer together as our call to worship:

Congregation: That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

There is a new hymn that has been written based on this question, and today we would like to sing it for the first time as a church. Let's sing!

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

Confession - Luke 18:13

In the past few weeks there has been turmoil all around us, especially regarding the topics of reopening and race. Not just in Georgia, but also here in our own city. Even though we don't have all the details regarding these situations, it is still right for us to grieve the violence and loss, and to cry out to God for his perfect justice.

Likewise, as family, friends, neighbors, and even Christians have been divided over reopening, it's right for us to lament the animosity and confusion, and cry out to God for his perfect peace. So let us pray this together, and repeat with me the refrain from the early church, "Lord, have mercy."

God the Father, for the lives lost, the injustices overlooked, and the racism perpetrated and incited,

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

God the Son, for the fears multiplied, the apathy of neighbor, and the reopening tensions stoked,

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

God the Spirit, for the ways we have contributed in our clamor or our silence, search our hearts.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. (based on Luke 18:13)

Cornerstone

Forever Reign

Sermon - True Community, Ephesians 4:25-32

O Church Arise

Announcements & Benediction - James 3:7-12; Isaiah 6:1-7; Matthew 12:33-37; 1 Peter 3:8-9

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 in one of them, simply message us and we'll get you connected.

Just a few announcements as we go, which serve as important next steps in response to the good news we've heard today:

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) Antioch Mercy - One of the practical ways we can continue to minister to our neighbors is through Antioch Mercy. We now have cards printed that you can drop off to your neighbors that share about different ways we can help. You can pick some up on mine and Kari's front porch.

3) Reopening discussion - As Brad mentioned earlier, this week in our Family Groups we will be discussing options for reopening our groups. Please come ready to share your perspective and to listen to others'.

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, no human being on earth has yet tamed the tongue; for we are a people of unclean lips. And yet Jesus Christ has touched your lips—your guilt is taken away, and your sin is atoned for. Therefore from the overflow of your new heart, may your mouth bless, that you may obtain a blessing, and be a blessing. (based on James 3:7-12; Isaiah 6:1-7; Matthew 12:33-37; 1 Peter 3:8-9)

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.
