

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

The Upside Down Kingdom,
Part One, Luke 6:12-26 -
Bradley Bell

May 9, 2021

Luke: Upside Down

Doxology

Call to Worship - Job 1:21; Romans 12:15

Good morning and welcome to Antioch Church. Happy Mother's Day! This is a special day because all of us have been impacted by biological and spiritual mothers in our lives. They are a reflection of God's life-giving power, and yet also his tenderness and nurture.

So if you're a mother, we thank God for you. Being a mom is hard, sometimes thankless work. It's a responsibility that's full of joy and wonder, but also anxiety and exhaustion. Moms, we need you and we love you!

But we also want to acknowledge that this is a difficult day for many of us. It can be a painful reminder of infertility, miscarriages, abortions, singleness, broken relationships, empty nests, and mothers who have passed. These things are worthy of grief and lament, and God enters the sorrow with us.

So let's pray this together:

O God who gives and takes away,
Congregation: Blessed be your name.

On a day that is different for all of us,
Congregation: Help us rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Continue to raise up in our midst biological and spiritual mothers
Congregation: That we may all grow into the fullness of Christ.

Amen.

On Christ The Solid Rock

Confession - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

We live in a world whose greatest values are things like power, comfort, success, and recognition. But Jesus says the values of his kingdom are things like weakness, sacrifice, grief, and exclusion. That's why Paul writes,

But [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Let's admit it—these things do not come natural to us. If we are going to embrace the upside down values of Jesus' kingdom, if we are going to be weak, then we need to confess that we are weak, that we are dependent on God to change us. Even though this next song is a hard one to sing, let's make it our heart's confession...

Lead Us Back

Jesus Strong And Kind

Sermon - Luke 6:12-26

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Let Your Kingdom Come

Announcements & Benediction - Luke 12:32

Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! If you tuned in by livestream, we're so glad, but we would invite you if you are physically able to come and worship with us, as there is no substitute for the in-person fellowship of the believers. And as we also intentionally say, this gathering 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, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Here are a few next-step 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 side table; you may give there as you exit, or you can give on our website or through GivApp.

Visitors - If you are a visitor with us this morning we aren't asking for your money, we are just glad that 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 baskets on the side table. You may use the Antioch pens and keep one as our gift to you.

2) 9 AM Classes - As we mentioned last week, we are now providing classes at 9 AM before each Sunday Gathering. The class schedule for the next two months is listed on the screen. These will also be posted outside the training room and on our website. Next Sunday will be our baptism class—please let us know if you are attending (there is a signup sheet on the side table).

3) Food Pantry - This Saturday -As always this is a great way to get connected to our neighbors. Come serve and help make up boxes on Friday or come at 9:30am on Saturday to help distribute. See Kari/ Bill for more information.

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.

As Jesus says in Luke 12:32, fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Therefore may you go into a world forever divided and cursed, and display the blessing of Jesus' upside down kingdom.

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.
