

# Sunday Gathering Liturgy

The Stairway to Heaven,  
Genesis 28:10-22 - Bradley  
Bell

June 6, 2021

Genesis 25-36: Learning to  
Limp

## Call to Worship - Psalm 121:1-4

It seems like life in many ways is going back to normal. Normal at work, normal at home, even back to our normal Sunday routine. And as we go back to our normal, busy lives, it's easy to miss where God is at work. It's easy to forget how much we need him. So hear this word from Psalm 121:

I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?

Congregation: My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep. Psalm 121:1-4

Yes, he is Lord over the highs and the lows, but he is also Lord over the normal. So let's look to him, let's bow our hearts to him, let's sing to the God of Jacob...

## Give Us Clean Hands

### Confession - 2 Kings 6:15-17

Sometimes our eyes are completely blind to what God is doing. Here's an example from the book of 2 Kings:

When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:15-17

When disappointment comes our way and our dreams are crushed, it often reveals what's deep down within us. Let's make this confession to the Lord (read the underlined portions with me):

Lord, my disappointments reveal so much about my own agenda  
and the ways I quietly demand that it should play out:  
free of conflict, free of pain, free of want.

Congregation: My dreams are all so small.

You are the King of my collapse,  
the Lord of my limp.  
So let me make this best confession:

Congregation: Not my dreams, O Lord,  
not my dreams,  
but yours, be done.

Amen.

## Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

### Behold the Christ

### Sermon - Genesis 28:10-22

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## **Baptism - Romans 6:4**

Baptism is one of the most important steps of obedience a Christian can take. It is a declaration and display of the total salvation Jesus has already provided for us. A person is lowered into the water to symbolize the death of Jesus. Then the person is raised from the water to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus.

Today we have one person who is declaring his new life in Christ through baptism: Stone Donaldson. Now we will hear Stone's testimony, read by his mother, Laura.

Laura: I was in church my whole life. I knew that everything was circling around God and Jesus' resurrection but I never really knew. I lied, I was rude to my friend at school, and I would do things even when people said stop. But then one day I thought there was a robber in my house and I suddenly knew my need for God. It was actually just my mom, but I knew then that I needed God. I started trying to fix things, but when I believed in what God had done for me through Jesus I didn't have to lie and I started to do better at stopping when people said stop. My mom one day asked me if I was interested in baptism and I said yes and here I am. A believer, a sinner, and starting a new life.

Stone, thanks be to God for what he has done in your life! Baptism not only means you have committed to be a disciple of Jesus, but it also means the church commits to help disciple you. Church, we should feel the weight of this responsibility! Let's start by taking a moment to pray for our brother in Christ.

Stone, one important question before you are baptized. What is your sacred confession?

Stone: Jesus is Lord!

This morning Stone will be baptized by Pastor Robbie and his dad, Tim Donaldson.

Stone, come forward and step into the water. Our brother in Christ, it is our honor to baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Buried in the likeness of Christ's death; raised to walk in newness of life.

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## **Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

*Nearer My God To Thee*

*Jesus There's No One Like You*

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## **Announcements & Benediction - John 1:51**

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) Diversity Discussion Group - Next Sunday our 9 AM class will be what we have called our Diversity Discussion Group. Diversity is not only a major issue in our culture, it is a significant outworking of the gospel. Rather than letting this topic divide the church, we want to proactively enter into conversation with one another. This class will be led by Michael Matala, lead pastor of New Breed Church.

Other upcoming classes are listed outside the training room as well as on our website ([antiochpeople.org/classes](http://antiochpeople.org/classes)).

3) Guest preacher - Speaking of Michael Matala and New Breed, he will be our guest preacher next Sunday. If you're new to Antioch, several years ago we helped plant New Breed in the Portland neighborhood. We're excited to continue cultivating our relationship with them.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and we end with a benediction, which is a reminder that we have been blessed to be a blessing. If you would like to receive this benediction, I invite you to open your hands before you.

Church, Jesus has come down and opened heaven to you forever, therefore may you go to a world searching for steps and show them the stairway to heaven. (based on John 1:51)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let's say this together: We are sent.

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