

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

God's Wisdom for Discipline,
Proverbs 3:11-12 - Bradley
Bell

August 22, 2021

Families Seeking Wisdom

Call to Worship - Psalm 2:1-12

Good morning and welcome to Antioch!

Hear the word of the Lord from Psalm 2:

- [1] Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
[2] The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
[3] "Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."

[4] He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
[5] Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
[6] "As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."

[7] I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
[8] Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
[9] You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

[10] Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
[11] Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
[12] Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Congregation: Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Church, once again we gather with an opportunity to take refuge in our God. There is so much happening in the world, and also happening in our lives. We can treat the next hour or so like just another part of the week, or we can receive this call to worship—and really worship! God is here—and blessed are all who take refuge in him...

His Mercy Is More

Confession - Hebrews 13:3

Hebrews 13:3 tells us, "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body."

This week we heard the difficult news that Afghanistan had fallen back into the hands of the Taliban. Not only is this heartbreaking in terms of government instability and its harm to human flourishing—it also puts the church there in certain danger. This morning we have asked Mark Mihalyov to lead us in a time of prayer. Mark has had a deep burden specifically for Afghanistan for over twenty-five years. Let us all share in that burden this morning as part of our worship...

Lord, as we rest in the grace of government stability,
Distant tragedy threatens to disturb our peace.
Will we pause long enough to care, to weep?
Or will we attend only to the hum of our lives and ministries?

Let us see that this, too,
is our ministry.

O God who gathers what has been scattered,
Shelter Afghanistan and Haiti in the shadow of your wings.

O Christ who binds our wounds,
Be their great healer.

O Spirit who enters every grief,
Intercede now for these hurting peoples,
in these broken lands.

Be present in the midst of this far-reaching
pain, O Lord, for we are reeling again,
at the news of threat and loss to life that touches
us all; news of flourishing diminished;
of individuals harmed; of pain imposed,
not only upon victims and their families who
bear now the immediate brunt of it—but also
upon entire nations.

For we are all more fragile than we know.

Engage our imaginations and move our hearts
to compassion rather than commentary,
that we would interact with these casualties
not as news stories or statistics, but
as our own flesh and blood, divine image-bearers,
irreplaceable individuals whose losses will
leave gaping holes in homes, friendships,
workplaces, churches, schools, organizations,
and neighborhoods.

Be merciful to those now wounded.
Be present with those now bereaved.
Be mighty among those now afraid.
You do not run from our world's chaos, O God.
So let us not either.

Be with all who move toward this need:
those who offer aid and protection.
Grant our government leaders wisdom,
courage, vision, sympathy, and strength
to serve with the humanity that
ultimately flows from your heart.
Console those who have labored long
and sacrificed to serve these nations.
And forgive our nation for our shortcomings
and contributions to this brokenness.

Arrest the hearts and stay the hands of any
who even now might be plotting further evil
and violence against others, O Christ.
Turn them from hatred.
Turn their hearts to you.

You have declared yourself a Father
to the weak and fatherless
So may you now protect the most vulnerable:
women, children, elderly, disabled,
the targeted, the hated,
and especially—
especially
your beloved bride
our forever family.

Give them courage to stand
and be multiplied
even as they may fall
and be subtracted.

You alone have strength to carry these peoples.
Carry them now, O Lord.

You alone have wisdom and power
to heal the wounds of nations.
Heal them now, O Lord.

Even in the shadow of such tragedy, let us
not lose hope. Give us eyes to see the rapid
movements of mercy rushing to fill these newly
wounded spaces. Let us see in this the echoes of
your own mercy and compassion—a foretaste of
your kingdom coming to earth. For in the cross
you have shown that you are able
to take even the very worst of circumstances
and astound us with the greatest of good.

And so be merciful again, O Lord.

Amen.

Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)

Give Me Jesus

Sermon - Proverbs 3:11-12

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Behold the Christ

On Christ The Solid Rock

Announcements & Benediction - Psalm 2:1, 9

Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus. You may be seated as we give a few next steps from today's gathering.

Giving - We will be passing our giving baskets at this time. If you're a member of Antioch we ask you to give cheerfully. If you're a visitor we ask you fill out a visitor card from the basket and give it to one of us at the end of the gathering. And if you're not a Christian, we're not asking for your money—this gathering is our gift to you.

Family Groups - Also, this gathering is only one part of the life of Antioch. We would love to have you in one of our small groups that we call Family Groups, which meet in our homes. There is more info at the visitor entrance and on our website, but better yet talk to one of us.

Food Pantry Update- We served 27 families and 81 people yesterday! A special thanks to all who helped both days to make food pantry a success. To God be the glory for all He is doing in and through this ministry!

9 AM classes - Our next 9 AM class will be the third and final session of the parenting class. Childcare is provided!

Recruitment Sunday - Today isn't just Appreciation Sunday, it's also Recruitment Sunday. Based on Ephesians 4 we want to equip the entire body for the work of ministry—not just 10% of the church doing 90% of the work. So today we are launching what we call the Antioch Servants wall—it's right outside these doors. And it has specific servant roles requested by the pastors, deacons, and staff. Those roles are written on plates because all these needs are “on the plate” of the church—and we're asking you to take them off the plate. So:

- 1) Go to the wall and prayerfully consider the needs
- 2) See the specified leader and express interest
- 3) If the leader approves, take the plate off the wall

Some of the most urgent needs are related to Antioch Kids. So Sarah O'Malley will be on the porch eager to recruit you! Please church, get involved, use your gifts, serve the body!

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.

Church, God broke the rod of condemnation over his Son, so that you could receive only the rod of discipline as beloved sons and daughters. Therefore may you go out among neighbors and nations who are raging against God, and point them to Jesus before his rod of iron dashes them to pieces.

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.
