

Sunday Gathering

The Refuge, Psalm 116:1-2;
9:9-10 - Bradley Bell

August 6, 2023

Antioch Family 2023

Call to Worship - Psalms 68:4-6 and 146:6-9

This morning, we have the privilege and responsibility to gather together to lift up the name of Jesus. Today is Antioch's first "Safe Church Sunday," and we also have the privilege and responsibility of addressing a difficult topic: abuse. In a world that is broken by sin and harm to one another, I am so thankful that the Lord is steadfast and that he hears our cries. With such an important and weighty subject today, let's anchor ourselves first in the truth of God's justice and care for His creation. Will you read the underlined portions with me?

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.
A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free,
the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.
He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
He remains faithful forever.

Let's read the last verse again together:

He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
He remains faithful forever.

Based on Ps 68:4-6 and 146:6-9, NIV

On Christ The Solid Rock

Confession - Psalm 116:5, 7-9

Churches -- and you and I within them -- don't always know how to respond when people around us have been harmed. If we're honest, a lot of times, we stumble and sometimes cause more hurt. If we're brutally honest, it can feel easier to ignore others' pain and hope it goes away without our help. This is an issue of individual and corporate sin worthy of grief and repentance. Let's pray a prayer of lament based on resources from Caring Well together as our confession today. I'll lead us, and I invite each of us to reflect in the moments of silence offered.

Lord, when we think of the person and work of Jesus, and how pastors and churches that were commissioned to continue His work have actually undermined it through sins of omission and commission, we weep. We groan. Our hearts break. [brief pause]
Father, forgive us of our own negligence, lovelessness, fear, greed, pride, ignorance, selfishness, and any other motive that caused us to be silent and passive when we should be vocal and active. The abuse in our churches should be exposed, not hidden. [brief pause]

Give us the courage and wisdom to make the changes that genuine repentance requires. And we ask you to have mercy on us according to the riches of your grace in Christ Jesus. We know you are faithful to do this, Father. [brief pause]

In our failure, the Lord is faithful. Read the following with me:

The Lord is gracious and righteous;
our God is compassionate.
Return to your rest, my soul,
for the Lord has been good to you.
For you, Lord, rescued me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.
I will walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.

Psalm 116:5, 7-9, CSB

I Am Not My Own

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Sermon - Psalm 116:1-2; 9:9-10

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

There Is A Peace

O Lord My Rock And My Redeemer

Benediction - Psalm 46 and 116

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week. We describe them as "intentional environments to be transformed by the gospel through relationships. 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.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

- 1) Next week's 9 AM class is titled, "How to Lead Your Child to Christ" and will be taught by Jared Kennedy. Jared Kennedy is a former families pastor who is a senior editor The Gospel Coalition and the author of several children's books, including The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible. We will be providing two different books to parents, so please take advantage of this great opportunity.
- 2) Next Sunday is promotion Sunday in which children move up to their next classes. In celebration of this we will be having popup snacks and an activity following the gathering.
- 3) On Saturday, August 12th there will be a Mantiach Survival Olympics from 5:00-10:00 PM here at the building. See Josh's amazing slide for more details and general motivation.

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, the Lord is your refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; therefore, may you walk empowered into a hurting world with listening ears, inviting others to the safety of Christ's open arms. Based on Psalm 46 and 116

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

You are sent.
