

Sunday Gathering

February 12, 2023 - The Great Need in
the North American Church - Nehemiah
1-2:5- Ralph Neal

Call to Worship - Isaiah 43:19-21

Isn't it good to worship a God who never changes? God never grows weary of doing good; it's who he is! His glorious deeds are beyond number, and yet we come to him with anticipation knowing that even now he still delights to do something new.

Right now we are in the final stretch of winter. Most days are gray and cold. It seems like there is no life anywhere. And yet very soon the buds that have gone dormant will soon burst with color. And God will remind us again that he delights in revitalizing his creation and his people.

To Isaiah he says,

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise. Isaiah 43:19-21

Let us prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for God's renewal today, as I pray this over us:

Lord, open our eyes to the new life still springing forth in the wilderness, to the streams of living water from which you call us to drink, that we may declare praise for you and your Son Jesus this morning! Amen.

Nailed To The Cross

Confession - Haggai 1:4-6; Galatians 2:20

The Lord still delights to give life in barren places, and renewal to his people. And what a privilege that we not only receive the restoration God brings, but we also get to participate in the restoration God brings!

As God's people, we are all called to the glorious ministry of reconciliation between God, one another, and others. Yet while there is so much good to do, we often dismiss the call don't we? The Lord said this through Haggai to his people regarding their participation in his restoration:

Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of host: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. Haggai 1:4-6

In the same way, how do we pursue our own reputation, interests, and goals rather than that of the Lord's? To be more specific, how do we dismiss the call to be kingdom-minded and build up other churches in need of revitalization?

The life-spreading work of restoration is difficult. But praise God that our life and purpose are not bound up in ourselves or our work, but in Christ! Let us be renewed today by speaking these words of Paul to the church in Galatia:

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Amen!

Be Thou My Vision

Speak O Lord

Sermon - Nehemiah 1-2,5

In Feast Or Fallow

O Praise The Name (Anástasis)

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Benediction - 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:16

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 in order for us to grow in the context of deep 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; the pen is yours to keep.

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) Antioch Academy - Our current workshop in Antioch Academy is called "The Empty Chair: Hospitality that Points Others to Jesus". Next week's topic is "Hospitable Places". As a reminder to parents, there are also classes for children at that time from first grade through high school. Infants and younger children are welcome but will need to remain with you rather than being dropped off with Young Disciples.

2) Food pantry is this Saturday

- Box setup will be at 9:00-9:30 AM on Friday

- On Saturday food pantry volunteers should plan to be at Antioch by 9:30 AM

- We welcome volunteers of all ages (but parents should supervise youngsters!) and especially anyone who speaks Spanish. This ministry needs prayer, especially as God is doing an exciting work among our Cuban neighbors.

3) Baptism Class will be offered on Sunday, February 26th at 9 AM. This is also available for children. Please sign up on the side table.

4) Reminder to parents about guiding your children before and after the Sunday gathering:

- Walk instead of run

- Talk instead of scream

- Stay in the same room as parents

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.

Church, you are now the body of Jesus Christ. May you go, therefore, building one another up in love and participating in the restoration he brings in us and through us! Based on 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:16

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

WE ARE SENT

Audio/Visual

Audio

Dan Gilliss 

Band


Acoustic Guitar

Aaron Kiefer

Cello

Tim Donaldson

Vocals

Katie Harrod 

Winona Miller