

Sunday Gathering

The Christian Call to Prayer,
Part One - Luke 18:1-8 -
Bradley Bell

February 19, 2023

Luke: Upside Down (Spring
2023)

Call to Worship - 2 Corinthians 6:16, 18; Matthew 6:9

Friends, this coming Wednesday kicks off the season of Lent. Lent is the forty days of the historical Christian calendar (not counting Sundays) stretching from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The practice of observing Lent began in the third and fourth centuries and was meant to point back to Israel's forty years of wandering in the wilderness and Jesus' forty days of fasting in the wilderness. In view of the full redemption story, both of these biblical events were formative acts of preparation for the fulfillment of God's promises. Lent is simply intended to shape us in a similar way. It is the time that Christians have historically set aside to make their hearts ready to remember Jesus' death and to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

In the same way, let us prepare our hearts this morning for the journey of today's gathering. Hear this cause for worship: God, the Creator of all things—from the biggest star to the tiniest cell—said this of his people in 2 Corinthians:

I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 2 Corinthians 6:16

This was God's desire from the very beginning of his creation. But he did not leave it there. He didn't just want to be our righteous Judge. Listen to this:

I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 6:18

Church, today our Father does not want us to stay away in this gathering. He wants us to enter into deep communion with him. He is delighted to be in our presence, so let us be delighted to be in his. Let's lift up in one voice to the Father we love (pray this with me):

****Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.**** Matthew 6:9

Promises

Confession - Psalm 51:4, 7-12

The season of Lent calls us to repentance and renewal as we wait for the coming King. Therefore we intentionally pause our celebratory worship to acknowledge this reality:

We are broken by the world, by our own sin. The act of confession is to admit to our Father that we need his help, that we are broken and shattered by the weight of the world and our own sinful desires. David, after sinning against Bathsheba, admitted this:

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Psalm 51:4

Our Father invites us to admit this for ourselves too. Not in order to crush us. No, he wants to forge us back together in the crucible of his love, taking the cracks and breaks and binding them with himself; making us stronger and filling us with his radiant light. So let us repent before our Father, that he may bring renewal. Pray this with me, from the psalm of David:

****Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**** Psalm 51:7-12

Christ Is Mine Forevermore

Come Thou Fount

EOG Lent

Sermon - Luke 18:1-8

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

O Lord My Rock And My Redeemer

He Will Hold Me Fast

Benediction - Matthew 5:14

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

1) Antioch Academy classes - Our workshop on hospitality concluded today. The next of Antioch Academy classes will start in April.

- Next Sunday: Family Group Leaders Meeting - This is primarily for facilitators, candidates, and hosts, but is open to anyone interested in Family Group leadership.

- Also next Sunday: Baptism Class. Please sign up. Reminder: for both of these classes there is no childcare from birth to kindergarten, so young children will need to remain with a parent.

- March 5-26 - Men's Bible Study (details coming soon)

2) Lent prayer and fasting guide - As we mentioned earlier in the gathering, we encourage you to participate in Lent prayer and fasting. There are some guides for the next week on the table if you prefer hard copies. We will make the electronic copy available by email and our Facebook page, or the ebook version is available on Amazon.


Church, you are the light of the world. Radiant, pure, and burning brighter than a thousand stars with the light of God that has been forged into you. Go therefore and shine and do not be hidden—for you are a deeply loved child of the Father. Based on Matthew 5:14

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

Jason Cox 

Slides

Jodie Sigrest 

Band

Bass Guitar

Mark Mihalyov

Cello

Tim Donaldson 

Drums

Brian Sigrest 

Electric Guitar

Aaron Kiefer 