

Sunday Gathering

Living a Life that Pleases the
Lord, Hebrews 13:1-3, 16 -
Nathan Sloan

February 5, 2023

Sending Sunday

Call to Worship - Revelation 7:9-12

This morning we're celebrating what we call a "Sending Sunday," a Sunday where we specifically focus on our participation in God's mission, both in our neighborhood and around the world.

Each week we conclude our gathering by saying, "We are sent." But what is the goal of that sending? In his vision of heaven, John gives us a glimpse of God's throne room. Stand with me and join in this interactive reading from Revelation 7.

Leader: After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne of the lamb.

Women: They came from every nation, tribe, people and language.

Men: They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

All: They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Women: Our sins have been washed away

Men: By the blood of the Lamb who was slain.

Leader: And they cried out in a loud voice:

Women: in a loud voice

Men: in a loud voice

All: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Leader: All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

All: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Our Great God

All Creatures Of Our God And King

Confession - Matthew 25:32, 35-36, 40

All of us want to be a part of that great multitude celebrating in heaven. But in one of his parables, Jesus warns us in this way:

Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Matthew 25:32

Jesus then welcomes the sheep to enter eternal life and sends the goats into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. When the sheep ask him why, Jesus tells them,

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me...whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:35-36, 40

Those who have been welcomed by Jesus become people who welcome others in his name. They are marked by love, hospitality, generosity, and compassion toward the least of people. Does this describe you?

All of us could do better in this regard. But the starting point isn't in doing more, but in being transformed. Let's pray this together:

**Lord, make me a person
And make us a people
Who are sent out welcoming others
Because you first welcomed us. Amen.**

Psalm 126**Doxology****Evidence of Grace - Acts 13:1-3****Sermon - Hebrews 13:1-3, 16****Behold the Christ (Sojourn)****Let The Nations Be Glad****Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28****Benediction - Hebrews 13:1-3**

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 - The Antioch Academy workshop continued this morning at 9:00 AM in the training room. Perfectly fitting with today's sermon, our current workshop is called "The Empty Chair: Hospitality that Points Others to Jesus". Next week's topic is "Hospitable Minds". 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) Mona has 2022 contribution reports available to hand out today. Please see her for your report.

3) Missionary Care Team (MCT) is meeting this Thursday at the Groces at 7:00 PM. This is an excellent way to participate in global missions at Antioch without being distributed yourself. Please join us in hearing updates from our missionaries and praying for them.

4) Missionary development process - As mentioned earlier in the gathering, if you have any interest in Antioch's missionary development process, please see pastor Robbie Gouge.

5) Antioch Kids - Last but certainly not least, we are in a season again of desperately needing more servants for Antioch Kids. Just as we say "You are sent" to these servants every week, it is a critical mission to the little lost people already in our midst. Please see our deaconess of Kids Sarah O'Malley—or please be open when she approaches you about serving. Men, this is place where you can bring order into chaos!

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, while you were still bound by sin, Jesus loved you and bore your punishment so that you could become his brothers and sisters. Therefore, may you go into the world extending that love to others by welcoming the stranger and remembering those who suffer. Based on Hebrews 13:1-3

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

Andrew Oliveras 

Dan Gilliss 

Slides

Jodie Sigrest 

Band

Bass Guitar

Mark Mihalyov

Drums

Brian Sigrest 

Electric Guitar

Aaron Kiefer

Vocals

Winona Miller