

# Sunday Gathering

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June 25, 2023 - Therefore I Have Hope,  
Lamentations 3:21-33 - Bradley Bell

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## Call to Worship - 2 Samuel 22:2-7

Church, it is easy to hide behind the false comfort of “thumbs-up-ism.” That’s when someone asks you how you are doing and you give them a big thumbs up and say “doing great!”

Yet life is difficult and we are faced daily by trials, sufferings, and the simple realities of a fallen world. But thanks be to God, that we don’t have to hide ourselves from him. We can enter his presence with our whole being. He knows us. We can raise our voices in lament and cry out to him. He hears us.

Receive this call to worship from 2 Samuel 22:2-7, and read the underlined portion aloud together

The Lord is your rock and your fortress and your deliverer,  
your God, your rock, in whom you take refuge,  
your shield, and the horn of your salvation,  
your stronghold and your refuge,  
your savior; he saves you from violence.

**\*\*We call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.\*\***

Our lives are faced with sufferings and trials  
We have lost loved ones. We are sick and weary.  
Anxieties consume us. Our sin oppresses us.  
We are confronted with the realities of this life.

**\*\*In our distress we call upon the Lord our God  
And from his temple he hears our voice,  
and our cries come to his ears.\*\***

Let’s worship him together.

## *All Creatures Of Our God And King*

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### Confession - 2 Corinthians 13:5

In Isaiah chapter 55, the prophet describes Jesus Christ, the suffering servant of the Lord, as one who is acquainted with our grief. He knows the different burdens we carry, he understands the things you struggle with. Take a moment now to silently confess a burden, struggle, or grief to the Lord.

Brief silence is kept.

Receive this confession and say the underlined portions aloud:

We confess our hesitancy to fully acknowledge such grief  
for fear that it might overwhelm us

**\*\*But it is through grief that you remind us, Lord,  
there is something of worth to our souls.  
And the loss of a worthy thing hurts\*\***

Yet you are not a Father who scolds his child  
when her balloon floats away,  
but, rather, draws her into your arms  
because you measure her losses not by your standards,  
but hers.

**\*\*So by our trust of you  
we take the risk of unwrapping before you  
our aching hearts**

For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings,  
so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.\*\*  
From 2 Corinthians 13:5

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***Lord I Need You***

***O Great God***

**EOG - Youth Camp**

**Sermon - Lamentations 3:21-33**

**Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

***Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted (Look To Jesus)***

***King Of Kings***

**Benediction - Isaiah 53:11; Lamentations 3:22-23**

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) Grenada Team Giving - This summer we are sending a team to support the ministry of Jason and Kari Crigler in Grenada. Rather than having a fundraiser for this team, we are asking the church to donate to the team fund. You can do that through GivApp or by check. This is the LAST WEEK before the trip!

2) Records - We are looking to update our records (many of you have info that is very outdated). Please fill out our form via this QR code, or on Facebook, or by email.

3) We have hired a new facilities manager so we, as a church, and be faithful stewards of the gift of this building So we are happy to announce we have hired Josiah Wallis and entrusted this responsibility to him.

Please stand with me. 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. I invite you to open your hands in a posture of reception:

Church, just as Jeremiah lamented over the ruins of Jerusalem, our Savior Jesus bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. Therefore in the midst of despair, we are not as those without hope. His mercies are renewed each morning, and his faithfulness is great. Go therefore and proclaim to a weary world the never-ending compassion of the One who hears your cries and tends to your wounds. Based on Isaiah 53:11; Lamentations 3:22-23

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.

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