

Sunday Gathering

October 22, 2023 - We Welcome
Weakness, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 -
Tanner Williams

Call to Worship

Opening with a very warm welcome. Thanking them for coming and encouraging them as everyone takes their seats. It only takes about 5 seconds to look out at the world and immediately see that things aren't quite right. Many of us this morning came in feeling weak after a week of constant stress. Many of us empathized deeply with the suffering ongoing in the middle east. Others have been walking through inner turmoil of the soul, and restless nights.

Church, be encouraged though this morning. As we gather, we know that his Spirit is with us. It was given to hold us up as we walk this broken world together.

Hear this call to worship and say the underlined portions with me.

Loving God, in Jesus
You chose to come to the world in humility.
You chose the path the world saw as foolish.
You used what the world considered weak.
We worship and adore you.
Now, in your mercy, make your way past
All that worries and distracts us
To lodge in us anew and to center
Our small worship on your great glory!

What He's Done

Cornerstone

Confession

As we settle into our gathering this morning, take a moment to reflect on how the Lord has met you this week. If you are anything like me, even when things are going swell, I notice an undercurrent of feelings that sometimes whispers, sometimes screams "all is still not well in the world". Maybe it is a physical ailment that is plaguing you, or anxiety about the future, or worries about your family or finances. For many of you, it's the daily grind of political work drama (that's really not so different than high school). Whatever it may be, those screams or whispers point us to something greater than this world that we were made for. All of creation is crying out for that future to come.

In the next quiet moment, I invite you to bow your head, or even kneel if you are comfortable and let what came to your mind now come before our Lord. He happily and graciously hears us and walks with us through the weakness and trials of this world.

Now pray this with me:

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.
Amen.

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Sermon

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

I Boast No More

O Praise The Name (Anástasis)

Benediction

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) We continue to see God's handiwork all over the food pantry ministry. Last month was our largest food pantry Saturday ever, but even though we served 69 families, we ran out of food and had to turn several families away. This month, we prayed for the Lord's provision and He answered with a resounding "Yes!"

First off, Antioch members responded to our calls for bags and boxes. Secondly, even though Dare to Care told us they wouldn't be able to increase our allotment - our allotment was increased, and with lots of actual food items versus junk. Amen!

Thirdly, the Lord also stirred the hearts of two of our regular food pantry visitors to help with box prep on Friday and another to serve yesterday. Our neighbors have told us many times that Antioch's food pantry is different from others - it's because we have been blessed and, by God's grace and provision, we are a blessing. One specific blessing is the Lord's provision of Melanie, Melodie, and Michelle, who have been faithfully sowing seeds (sembrando semillas!) in Spanish and English, aka pursuing intentional gospel relationships to display Christ's glory among the nations. So much so that now our Cuban sisters want to serve alongside our awesome multilingual, multigenerational, and multi-congregational food pantry servant team.

Speaking of gospel relationships, yesterday I heard food pantry servants admonishing their children to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and exhorting our neighbors to stop neglecting the assembly of the saints (Hebrews 10:25). Pastor Pedro and Melodie gave a gospel presentation in Spanish and English - let God's word not return empty-handed but pierce hearts to repentance and saving faith in the blood atonement of Jesus Christ our Lord, who died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried and rose again the third day according to the scriptures (1 Cor 15:1-4). AMEN!

Oh yeah, and we also handed out some food. With Ezri, Ethan, Theresa, Bob, Derek, Evonna, and Pedro leading the way, we served 81 families in-person and delivered food boxes to two additional families for a total of 83 families consisting of 308 individuals and one jump-started motorcycle (woot woot, Laura!). In three of the last four weeks, we were also able to provide fresh produce to our sister Congolese congregation of 15-20 families that meets at 3rd Street Baptist, led by Pastor Bertin (who we met at the soccer clinic).

Thank you for your continued prayers, donations, and service in the food pantry ministry. Please continue to ask for God's provision and especially pray that the Lord would bless Pastor Pedro's outreach to our lost Cuban neighbors and discipleship of our Cuban brothers and sisters - a home-based bible study is in the works.

2) Operation Christmas Child boxes are right outside the door.

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, We declare today that Christ is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. Church, in our vulnerability and weakness, we are made strong and God's strength is made perfect! Go therefore knowing that he is able to keep us from failing and presents us before God as blameless - even in our weakness. To the only God, our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.
