

# Sunday Gathering

---

October 8, 2023 - Blessed to be a  
Blessing, 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 - Tanner  
Williams

---

## Call to Worship - Psalm 139: 13-16

Good morning church. Each week in our family groups we talk about evidences of God's grace that we've seen in our lives. I'd like you for just a moment to quiet your heart, and think back this past week on a situation where you saw God's clear presence in your life. It could be a difficult situation or a joy-filled moment. Whatever it is, think on it now.

Now consider that since the creation of the world, God was always going to be present in that moment of your life. He planned on the most intimate level to intervene in that situation, at just the right time, since before he spoke the first ray of sunlight into existence.

Hear these words from Psalm 139 verses 13-16:

For you formed my inward parts;  
    you knitted me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
    my soul knows it very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
    intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
    the days that were formed for me,  
    when as yet there was none of them.

So let us sing together this morning, not only remembering God's work in our life right now, but worshipping the promises and blessings he promised to fulfill since before we were knit together.

***Behold Our God***

---

---

## **Confession - Matthew 5:3-11**

In the midst of our busy lives and those days where it just feels like one thing after another, we can quickly doubt and even forget the life altering truth of God's blessings on our lives. Yet, how fortunate are we that our sovereign Creator knew the doubts we would face, and offered us these blessings from the mouth of Jesus:

When we don't feel worthy of God's love

Let's respond together:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When the suffering of the world feels too heavy to bear

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

When it feels like our lives are too insignificant

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

When we don't feel like we've done enough for the kingdom

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

When we struggle to forgive past hurt

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

When we feel like we haven't experienced the world enough to be a faithful witness

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

When we battle the desire to respond in anger because of disagreements

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

When we worry that following Jesus too closely may lead to painful situations

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When we are fearful to share our faith because we may lose family or friends

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Church, in the midst of our doubts and fear let us remember whose hands our futures are in, and how he has been faithful long before our time:

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

When you find yourself in seasons of doubt, hold fast to the everlasting blessings that God has promised you. These blessings are signs that despite knowing your deepest transgressions and doubts, God is faithful to love you more deeply and faithfully than any of us could ever imagine.

---

***Your Cross, O Lord***

***Turn Your Eyes***

---

**Sermon - 2 Corinthians 4:7-18**

***Jesus Loves Me***

---

***Man Of Sorrows***

---

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

---

---

## **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) Catholic Charities has been helping settling refugees in the Louisville area this month. Catholic Charities manages the community garden and has helped several of the refugees transition to the US that take advantage of our garden, soccer ministry and food pantry. This is a great opportunity to partner and help refugees coming to our community. In the back of the sanctuary is a collection box that has some of the key items listed like sheets, towels, pillows and comforters. If you'd like to contribute you can drop items in the box or scan the QR code to order items from Amazon. **THIS IS YOUR LAST DAY.**

2) Young Disciples is having a fun Fall celebration on Saturday, October 14 at the Tennant's house from 5pm to 8pm. Open to every child in Young Disciples, there will be enough chaperones for all the kids but parents and siblings are welcomed and encouraged to stay as well. Food will be provided. Perhaps a few Fall activities as well. Come hang out and have fun! Please RSVP on the Facebook event.

3) Continuing next Sunday, October 15th at 9 AM, will be the Women's Bible Study in the training room. It will keep studying 1 John and a time to connect with the other ladies in the church. childcare will be provided for this.

4) If you didn't get a chance to pick up a prayer card and magnet reminder for the family who was commissioned last week please stop by the table to the side. We want to be faithful to our covenant with them by regularly praying for and encouraging them so please sign up, put it in your calendar, and let the magnet remind you to pray.

5) Remember 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, let us leave here today living as people who are blessed. Not with vain pride as if we did something to deserve it, but with broken spirits and repentant hearts knowing that Christ is enough to save even the worst of sinners from the bondage of sin. So let us rejoice and be glad that we will one day receive the reward of being in God's presence forever and ever.

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.

---

---