

Sunday Gathering

September 10, 2023 - Ambassadors of
Hope, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 - Todd
Robertson

Call to Worship - John 8:12

Come, brothers and sisters, to this sacred gathering,

God calls us to worship, and we come, some with laughter and songs of joy.
God calls us to worship, and we come, some from a sense of obligation or habit.
God calls us to worship, and we come, some with hearts heavy with grief.
God calls us to worship, and we come, some with distraction or exhaustion.
God calls us to worship, and we come, some with eagerness and enthusiasm.
God calls us to worship, and we come, some with stress, loneliness, or depression.

As God's dearly loved children, we bring all our joy and pain, hurt and hope
Into this place of Spirit-given grace, love and hope.

John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Let us fix our eyes on Him, our eternal hope, as we sing together!

All Creatures Of Our God And King

Confession

Gracious God, we come before you as imperfect vessels,

Although Christ is among us as our hope and peace,
We are a people divided against ourselves
As we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
Lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
Set neighbor against neighbor
And nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
Of intellect and reason,
And turn them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
Heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
As agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ, indeed as a people of hope.

Jesus Loves Me

Living Hope

Sermon - Ambassadors of Hope, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 - Todd Robertson

Great Are You Lord

Now Why This Fear

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) Antioch Academy aims to develop intentional gospel relationships through the regular practice of learning in community. This fall, we are focusing on our identity as disciples by offering a series of four workshops entitled The Heart of Discipleship. The third workshop will take place next Sunday, September 17th. There will be children's programming for grades 1st through 12th. Younger children and infants are welcome to attend with their parents.

2) Our Fall soccer clinics continue this week on Saturday, September 16th. We had ___ kids yesterday.

Thank you to those who have already signed up to serve at the Fall Festival on Sept 23. We need A LOT more of you to do so! There are plenty of slots still available. You should have received a sign up genius in your email. Or sign up on the Antioch people Facebook page.

See Sarah Omalley or Shannon if you have any questions and please sign up! We need all hand on deck to welcome our neighbors well on the 23rd.

3) Catholic Charities is expecting 100+ refugees between now and October. 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.

4) Now that summer is over we want to do another game night hosted by The Davenports!! It will be on September 15th at 6. Let Andy Oliver or Josiah Wallis know if you can make it that way if we have 50 people show up we will have to move to the church instead. Hope to see you there

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, as we depart from this place, remember that we are entrusted with a mission. Just as Jesus, the Ambassador of Hope, came to us, we are called to be Ambassadors of Hope to others. May the hope we carry in our hearts shine brightly, dispelling darkness wherever we go. As 2 Corinthians 5:20 reminds us, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us." Go forth with the message of hope, grace, and love, and may the world see in us the reflection of Jesus, our eternal Hope.

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.
