

# Sunday Gathering

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September 3, 2023 - What if he was on our side?, Acts 16:22-34 - James Power

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## **Call to Worship - Psalm 27:1, Matthew 11:28**

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)

We gather in the presence of our Almighty God, who dispels our fears and strengthens us in times of suffering.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

We come to worship our Savior, who invites us to find solace and strength in Him.

Let us lift our hearts and voices in praise, for our God is with us in every trial.

## ***Firm Foundation (He Won't)***

### **Confession - Proverbs 3:5, Matthew 16:24**

"When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul." (Psalm 94:19)

Yet, in the face of suffering, we confess that we often succumb to fear and despair.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

We admit that we sometimes rely on our own strength, forgetting that God desires to conform us to the image of Christ through our trials.

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Lord, forgive us for not embracing the cross in our suffering and for seeking our own way rather than Yours.

Merciful God, help us see suffering as an opportunity for transformation and growth in Christ's image.

Grant us the courage to confess our fears and doubts and to trust in Your loving plan

## ***Build My Life***

### ***Christ Is Mine Forevermore***

## **Sermon - What if he was on our side?, Acts 16:22-34 - James Power**

### ***Lead Us Back***

## ***Goodness Of God***

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

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## **Benediction - 2 Corinthians 3:18**

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 second workshop will take place next Sunday, September 10th. 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 8th. We had 43 kids yesterday. The Fall Festival is on Saturday the 23rd, not the 30th. please see your emails and texts you received this week to sign up to help.

3) Tonight, September 3rd at 6:00 PM the Cox family is inviting everyone to a memorial for Kristen's mother, Judy Rossbacher. We will gather here at the building and encourage you to attend.

4) 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.

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 go forth from this time of worship, remember the words of the apostle Paul: "we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18). May you face suffering with unwavering faith, knowing that through it, God is conforming you to the image of Christ. Therefore, go in peace, bearing His image, and may His strength be your guide. 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.

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