

ORDINARY TIME Brookhaven Presbyterian Church / October 12



What is the chief end of man?

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.
-Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 1

What do we do when we go to church?

We come to church to experience God in a way we are not able to individually. When we gather to worship God at church, the body of Christ collectively experiences and gives worship to the God of the universe. We do this by hearing directly from God reading Scripture, speaking to Him by praying, worshiping Him by singing songs, receiving His love and grace through celebrating the Lord's Supper, and learning about Him by hearing the Word of God interpreted through the sermon. We may or may not feel anything different here, but we believe that whatever it is that we experience when we are at church is the closest thing we have to experiencing an encounter with the living God. We're glad you're joining us.

Open Space

Pull me in closer
Close to Your heart
May I be a pure reflection
Of all You are

Love that is patient
Love that is kind
A love that keeps no offenses or
wrongs in mind

Make me like Jesus
Make me like Jesus

Chorus:

*My heart is an open space
For You to come and have Your way
I'm open, I'm open*

You're faithful to find me
Right where I am
Though even in my wandering
You call me friend

Mercy receives me
And lifts me to my feet
And I'm caught up in the wonder and
mystery

Of knowing Jesus
Of knowing Jesus

Chorus

Do whatever You want to do
Say whatever You want to say
Move however You want to move
Change whatever You want to change

Chorus

Call To Worship

Isaiah 12: 2-4

“Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my
might; he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.”

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

Chorus:

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

“He has done great things,”

We will say together.

We will feast, and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;
He is the Lord our God.

We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

Chorus

In the dark of night before the dawn,

My soul be not afraid;

For the promised morning, oh how long!

O God of Jacob, be my strength!

Chorus

Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed,

You are the faithful One;

And from the garden to the grave,

Bind us together, bring shalom.

Chorus

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Welcome & Announcements

Get Connected

The following are opportunities to connect with others in the church. If you are interested in more information, please email Beth Goss (beth.goss@brookhavenpres.com).

Community Groups: Monthly gatherings for dinner and relational connection.

Cohorts: Groups that meet bi-monthly for the sake of exploring or growing in areas of similar interests or life circumstances.

Discipleship Groups: Small groups in which people are growing in their knowledge of Jesus in the context of meaningful community.

Leadership: The mechanism in which we are encouraging our people to invest in others as Christ has invested in us. For more information on the various leadership teams, please go to the BPC website (www.brookhavenpres.com/leadership).



Congregational Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Matthew 6: 9-13

*Children of all ages are welcome in
the service at all times. Anyone going
to class may do so now.*

Sermon

Matthew 18: 15-22

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. **16** But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18** Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **19** Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” **22** Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Lord's Supper

For Christians, the Lord's Supper is the most sacred thing we do all week. We believe as Presbyterians that though the bread and wine do not become the physical body and blood, nevertheless something mysterious and spiritual happens when we eat and drink by faith, so that we are spiritually nourished and our union with Christ and one another is signified and sealed. For that reason, anyone who is not a Christian and does not see this as sacramental may feel free to abstain, as we do not want to force you to do something with your body that is inconsistent with your heart. However, the Heidelberg Confession says that for those who are displeased with themselves because of their sins, and yet trust that these are forgiven them, the Supper may help remind them that their weakness and sin is covered by the suffering and death of Christ. If you think your child is ready to go through confirmation and receive communion, please contact Blythe.

For anyone that may find it easier to remain seated during communion, single-use communion cups are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to ask any BPC member for assistance.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he
descended into hell. On the third day he rose
again; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at
the right hand of the Father, and he will come
to judge the living and the dead. I believe in
the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting.
Amen.

Confession

Father, we acknowledge how easily we have failed to follow you this week. In your kindness, please show us the ways in which we have not treated others with respect, not loved well or were self-seeking in decisions that we made. We ask that you bring us to repentance in these areas. We long to be made more and more like Christ as you draw us closer to yourself. Help us to understand and fully live out what it means that we are a people who have been reconciled to you because of the work of Jesus on our behalf. Teach us to rest in the beauty of your love so that we can live as those who have hope instead of discouragement and despair.

Assurance of Pardon

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1: 13-14

Prayer & Reflectio

We encourage you to use the time before and after you receive communion to be still with God. For each of us this may look different, but you can use this time to read back over the scripture, reflect on God's love and forgiveness for you, sing along with the song or pray through the following prompts:

-For God to give you deep rest in Him.

-For God to give you a hunger to know and be with Him.

-For God to show you how He wants you to respond to anything from the service today that convicted, encouraged, or compelled you to action.

-For anyone in your life who may be struggling.

Offering

An offering basket is located on the left of the stage as an opportunity to give back to God. You may also donate online through Church Center.

Communion Song

Instrumental Piano

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter,
and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Chorus

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Chorus

Benediction

Psalm

145: 8-9

8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love. **9** He is good to
all, and his mercy is over all that he
has made.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

HEAD LINES

1

Diaconal Highlight: Foster
Care and Adoption Ministry

2

Staff Reflection: Beth Goss

3

Church Family Lunch



Connect With Us: If you would like prayer for something specific, are new to the church, or would like to meet with a church leader, please text your information to 770-241-8131 or scan the QR code to fill out the contact card.

UPCOMING DATES:

Sun 10/12: Mid-Century Moderns Potluck Lunch at 11:30am (*BPC - Gathering Space*)

Mon 10/13: Prayer for Sally Jordan at 9:00am (*BPC - Room 101*)

Fri 10/17: Church-wide Fast from Breakfast

Sun 10/19: Youth Group at 4:00pm (*BPC - Gym/Backyard*)

Please go to the BPC website or app to find out more details about the events above.

HEAD LINES

1) Diaconal Highlight: Foster Care and Adoption Ministry

The BPC Foster Care and Adoption Ministry Team's vision is and continues to be that, "the Lord would use this ministry to foster a culture that embraces and provides ongoing care for the vulnerable children and their families in our congregation as well as in our community."

And **BOY** have we had the privilege of seeing God work in incredible ways this past year:

- This time last year, there were no actively fostering families in our congregation. We currently have four families, licensed and/or actively caring for vulnerable children.
- The ministry team has stepped up by providing a care team to each of the four families mentioned above. A care team is a group of 6-10 people who support a fostering family by providing meals, babysitting, family help, and prayer. Every one of our four care teams is fully staffed! Many members of our congregation outside our ministry team have also stepped in to help staff these teams!
- We've witnessed biological families reunited in incredible ways this past year, reminding us that God is sovereign and working in each of these sweet families in better ways than we could have ever hoped or imagined.
- We've had children adopted in their forever families.
- The foster home on campus was fully renovated and is now occupied and serving vulnerable children in our community.

Even though we have seen the Lord grow this ministry in big ways in our church, there is still so much need in our community. As of today (Oct 8), there are 78 homes needed for children within a 15 minute drive of our church campus. There are a number of families we've seen come through our Community Assistance ministry who need help to prevent their children from entering foster care.

If you have any interest in learning about how you can help answer God's call to care for vulnerable children, please reach out to a member of the Foster Care and Adoption ministry team.

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." 1 John 3:1

HEAD LINES

2) Staff Reflection: Beth Goss

As I reflect on the last few months of what has gone on in the world, our country, in the lives of many in our church, and in my own life, what sticks out to me is that there has been a mix of joyful excitement and deep sorrow. Rejoicing comes much easier than sitting with sorrow. I have personally become increasingly more accepting over the years that not everything will be wrapped up in a little bow or be fixed immediately. Yet, when I see the people in my life going through harder life circumstances, I can't help but want it all to be okay and skip over the hard parts. However, that is not the reality of many circumstances. As I grapple with what to do with the deeper emotions that come with all forms of suffering, especially those that lead to sadness and anger, I have come across several thoughts on lament that I have found helpful and have recently shaped the way I sit with my own sadness.

Through the example of many Psalms (10, 13, 22, 44, 88, 102, to name a few), we are given the gift of lament. Lament helps us go deeper with our sadness and grief. It is intentionally bringing our questions, anger, and sorrow before God. And in doing so, it prepares us to receive God's transforming grace so that the way we live our lives and respond to the sorrow around us is increasingly shaping us to become more like Jesus.

Walking through a prayer of lament offers us an opportunity to express to God that we cannot bear on our own the pain and sorrow we are facing. We can do that on a practical level by bringing to God what our pain is, allowing our hearts to express our full range of emotions, asking for God to act, and finally, it ends with a call for us to wait with hope.

If you are like me and find yourself looking around at a lot of suffering and hardship and feel somewhat helpless, at a loss of what to do, or just don't know what to do with your emotions, I encourage you to proactively practice lament. As I have introduced this into my rhythm of life, I have found God to be not only deeply present but reshaping what hope looks like. If you want to talk more about lament, I'd be happy to do so.

HEAD LINES

3) Church Family Lunch: Chili Cook-off

Immediately following the Membership and Baptism service on Sunday, November 2nd, we will have a Church Family Lunch! Join us as we spend time welcoming our new members and celebrating with the families who have baptized their children.

This time around, the theme will be a Chili Cook-off! All are invited to participate in two ways:

1. Bring a crockpot of your favorite chili, and/or
2. Bring a dessert to share

A grand prize of \$100 gift card plus bragging rights will go to the winner!

If you plan to bring a pot of chili or dessert, please sign-up at the link in the Wednesday Update or on the Events page of the BPC app or website!