

ORDINARY TIME Brookhaven Presbyterian Church / August 17



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.

Backwards Kingdom

"So the last will be first,
and the first last."

Matthew 20: 16

Sometimes you gotta step into the river
Before the waters part
You gotta get out of that boat
Before you know if you can walk
Faith's a gamble on his faithful history
Cause if you wanna follow Jesus
You can't bet on what you see

Chorus:

Strength is weakness

Weakness is strength

Living is dying

Dying is gain

You get forgiveness by giving it away

When you save your life you lose it,

But when you lose it, you'll be saved

When you want to go to war

Send out the tambourines

Disorient the enemy

With the songs that you sing

We don't fight towards the flesh

And our weapons don't make sense

But if you want to follow Jesus

You make peace with foolishness

Chorus

Backwards kingdom

Backwards King

For your kingdom in need

Chorus

Call To Worship

Zephaniah
3:17

"The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with
loud singing."

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

Jesus Paid It All

"Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;"
Isaiah 1: 18

I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness, watch and pray
Find in me thine all in all

Chorus:

*Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow*

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone

Chorus

O praise the one who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead
And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Chorus

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

Galatians 1: 1-5

1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— **2** and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4** who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **5** to whom be the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Galatians 3: 2-3

2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? **3** Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Galatians 5: 25

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 6: 18

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

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.

A Liturgy for Communion

Isaiah 55: 1-3, 6-7

Leader:

Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

All:

Why do you spend your money for that
which is not bread,
And your labor for that
which does not satisfy?

Leader:

Listen diligently to me, says the Lord,
and eat what is good,
And delight yourself in the richest of food

All:

Incline your ear, and come to me;
Hear, that your soul may live;
And I will make with
you an everlasting covenant,
My steadfast, sure love.

Leader:

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near.

All:

Let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord,
that he may have compassion on him.

*Prayer and
Reflection*

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**

Hold Me Jesus

Well sometimes my life
just don't make sense at all
When the mountains look so big
And my faith just seems so small

Goodness Of God

"Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life."
Psalm 23: 6

Chorus:

*So hold me Jesus 'cause
I'm shaking like a leaf
You have been King of my glory,
Won't You be my Prince of peace*

And I wake up in the night and feel the dark
It's so hot inside my soul,
I swear there must be blisters on my heart

Chorus

Surrender don't come natural to me
I'd rather fight You
for something I don't really want
Than to take what You give that I need
And I've beat my head against so many walls
Now I'm falling down,
I'm falling on my knees

And this Salvation Army
band is playing this hymn
And Your grace rings out so deep,
It makes my resistance seem so thin

Chorus

I love You, Lord
For Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus:

*'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God*

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night, You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me
With my life laid down,
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything,
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me

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

Youth Group Kick-off

2

Community Groups

3

Staff Reflection:
Stefan Cashwell



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 8/24: Sunday School / Theology Class at 8:30am (*BPC*)

Sat 8/23: Leadership Kick-Off at 9:00am (*BPC*)

Sun 8/24: Prayer for Hope and Healing at 9:00am (*BPC Room 101*)

Sun 8/24: Youth Group Kick-Off at 6:00pm (*BPC Gym & Backyard*)

Sun 8/24: Mid-Century Moderns Dinner at 7:00pm (*Marlow's Tavern in Brookhaven*)

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

HEAD LINES

1) Youth Group Kick-Off

BPC's Youth Ministry kicks off Sunday Night Youth Group on Sunday, August 24th from 6:00-8:00pm! We are so excited to launch this program as an opportunity for our students to connect with one another and grow in their faith. Through sharing dinner together, playing games, and spending time in d-groups, we are seeking to engage students so that they have a place to build community with their peers and be cared for by their d-group leaders. The Youth Ministry at BPC seeks to holistically form our students to know Jesus more deeply, be integrated into the life of the church, and to wrestle with their faith, making it their own.

HEAD LINES

2) Community Groups

We recognize that a crucial part of our growth as Christians is being in community with other believers through fellowship, prayer, Bible study, and general relational connection. As we approach the start of the new ministry year, we encourage you to think about what that looks like for you in your particular season of life. We are expanding our groups to include several different types of groups to best suit your availability and life situation. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Beth (beth.goss@brookhavenpres.com).

This week, we want to focus on Community Groups. We know that for many, if not most, of us, life can feel very full and overwhelming at times, yet we also long to have deeper relationships with others in our church community. For that reason, we started monthly Community Groups last year for the sake of providing space to relationally connect with others. These groups are monthly gatherings where the group will eat a meal together and enjoy fellowshiping with one another. The community groups will meet throughout the ministry year and are open to others joining throughout the year.



3) Staff Reflection: Stefan Cashwell

“One cannot live all the time in the intensity of revelation. The ordinary life keeps our spirits from going mad.”

It’s not exactly the rallying cry we expect from the life of faith. Shouldn’t the Christian life feel more like a mountaintop and less like a valley—our hearts pounding with the voice of God in our ears? If we’re honest with ourselves, we like to think the Christian walk should feel constantly electric—like every prayer should be a lightning strike.

I recently did a study of Martin Buber’s book *I and Thou*, where Buber writes about those piercing encounters with the Eternal Thou—moments when all barriers fall away and we stand utterly present before God. They are rare, holy, and unrepeatable by force. But Buber also warns that we can’t live there forever—not because God withdraws, but because our humanity can’t hold that kind of raw voltage every waking moment. We would shatter.

HEAD LINES

3) Staff Reflection: Stefan Cashwell

The trick is not to chase the mountaintop, but to let it teach us how to walk the valley. Revelation isn't wasted when it fades into the rhythms of grocery lists, dishes, and emails. In fact, that's where it does its real work. Just as Israel had manna only for the day, God gives us moments of blazing vision to carry us through long stretches of faithful ordinariness. Without the ordinary, the extraordinary would crush us.

This is where the ordinary comes in—not as the dull backdrop to the “real” spiritual life, but as its stabilizer. The quiet spaces, the daily work, the small exchanges with others—these give shape and weight to the mountaintop moments. Revelation is not wasted when it fades; it is tested, integrated, and made durable in the unremarkable hours.

I think one of the primary dangers for modern faith isn't just that we might miss God, but that we might succumb to the temptation of thinking only the dramatic proves God is near. This is where we remember God's promise of something deeper: Christ with us—not only in the peak moments, but in the quiet ones that follow. Revelation isn't a place to live; it's a spark to keep us human in the days between.

The Spirit speaks not only in unforgettable moments, but also in the slow work of a Tuesday afternoon. Maybe that's how God keeps us from going mad on this side of Heaven—by teaching us to see His glory in the quiet. Maybe the ordinary is the place where revelation matures into a way of life.

If you want to interact with this reflection further, spend some time reading
1 Kings 19:11–13:

11 The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

What are the ways God might be whispering in your life today? What spiritual opportunities are being presented to you through the gift of the ordinary?