

## **Worship Service on January 21, 2024**

**Welcome and Announcements** ~ Cheryl Hess

**Monday** ~ The Uplift Cancer Support Group will meet at 3 pm in the fellowship room.

**Tuesday** ~ There will be a Prayer Group and Book Discussion of *God Never Gives Up on You* chapters 3 & 4 at 7 pm via zoom.

**Wednesday** ~ The Seeking God Together Group will meet at 11 am via zoom.

**Thursday** ~ There is no choir practice this week.

**Saturday** ~ The funeral for George (Butch) Gordan will take place at the church at noon with a reception to follow in the fellowship hall.

**Next Sunday** ~ There will be a Mission Moment highlighting the Retired Ministers and Missionary Offering. The envelopes are available for you if you would like to give to this cause.  
~ People are invited to give Alpha a try, coming for a pot-luck supper at 5 pm followed by activities, a video, and discussion.

Happy Birthday to Jeremy Crumb on Saturday  
and to Anna Ennis next Sunday!



Thank you to Danny and Denise Thompson for flowers  
in loving memory of Billy Krakauskas.

**Word of Preparation** ~ Cheryl Hess

**Prelude** ~ Please prepare your hearts for worship  
as you listen to Barb West share a song.

**Call to Worship ~ Luke 1:68-79 (NLT)** read by Cheryl Hess.  
Please join in reading the bold lines.

***Zechariah's blessing for his newborn son, John ~***

<sup>68</sup> "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,

**because he has visited and redeemed his people.**

<sup>69</sup> He has sent us a mighty Savior

from the royal line of his servant David,

<sup>70</sup> **just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago.**

<sup>71</sup> Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us.

<sup>72</sup> **He has been merciful to our ancestors**

**by remembering his sacred covenant—**

<sup>73</sup> the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham.

<sup>74</sup> We have been rescued from our enemies

so we can serve God without fear,

<sup>75</sup> **in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live.**

<sup>76</sup> "And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High,

**because you will prepare the way for the Lord.**

<sup>77</sup> You will tell his people how to find salvation

**through forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup> Because of God's tender mercy,

**the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,**

<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

**and to guide us to the path of peace."**

**Song ~ “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” (#602, blue)**

*O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free  
Tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care  
Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way*

*Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong  
In trust that triumphs over wrong*

*In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future’s broadening way  
In peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live*

Words ~ Washington Gladden, 1879 and Music ~ Henry Percy Smith, 1874  
Public Domain

**Praying Together ~**

**Our Father, Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory forever,  
Amen**

**Song ~ “What Was Your Vow and Vision” (#177, blue)**

*What was your vow and vision, revealed and recognized  
Christ, when you came to Jordan and asked to be baptized?  
Was there a sudden splendor of prophets, priests, and kings,  
A wind that stirred the waters, a blur of mighty wings?*

*Was this God’s call, the crowning of all you had become:  
“Go, show and tell my coming, my own, my chosen one”?  
Did scripture join with scripture, revealing in surprise  
The triumph of a servant rejected and despised?*

*We meet you at the water and ponder why and how  
In hope that we may follow where God is going now  
Anointed by your Spirit, reborn, and energized  
Through deed and word proclaiming: “In Christ we are baptized!”*

Words ~ Brian Wren, 1994, Music ~ *Southern Harmony*, 1835 | Hope Publishing

**Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca**

**Scripture Text ~ Mark 1:1-11 (NIV) read by Cheryl Hess**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news  
about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,  
<sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”—  
<sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”  
<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,  
preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.  
*(continued on the next page)*

<sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside  
and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.  
Confessing their sins,  
they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.  
<sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair,  
with a leather belt around his waist,  
and he ate locusts and wild honey.  
<sup>7</sup> And this was his message:  
"After me comes the one more powerful than I,  
the straps of whose sandals  
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.  
<sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water,  
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."  
<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee  
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.  
<sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water,  
he saw heaven being torn open  
and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.  
<sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven:  
"You are my Son, whom I love;  
with you I am well pleased."

**Sermon~ "Encountering Jesus at the Jordan River"**  
~ Rev. Rebecca Sommons

**Song ~**

**"King of Heaven"**

*Jesus let Your kingdom come here. Let Your will be done here in us  
Jesus there is no one greater. You alone are Savior  
Show the world Your love*

**Chorus**

***King of heaven, come down. King of heaven, come now  
Let Your glory reign, shining like the day  
King of heaven come***

***King of heaven rise up. Who can stand against us  
You are strong to save, in Your mighty name***

***King of heaven, come***

*We are children of Your mercy. Rescued for Your glory  
We cry Jesus set our hearts towards You  
That every eye would see You lifted high*

**Chorus**

*King of heaven come, King of heaven come  
King of heaven come, Oh King of heaven come*

**Chorus**

***King of heaven, come down. King of heaven, come now  
Let your glory reign, shining like the day  
King of heaven, come***

CCLI Song # 5997804 Jason Ingram | Paul Baloche  
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**Benediction ~ 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV)**

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all."