

Worship Service on October 1, 2023

Welcome and Announcements ~ John Hess

Tonight ~ The Mission Impossible Youth Activity for 6th -12th graders will begin at the First Congregational Church at 5 pm and include a road trip and pizza.

Monday ~ Uplift Cancer Support Group meets at 3 pm at the church.

Wednesday ~ A new group called *Women Who Pray* is having their first meeting at Tatiana Schweibenz's home at 2 pm. Please see Tatiana or Pastor Rebecca for more information.

Thursday ~ The Interfaith Council is meeting at the Federated Church of East Arlington at 11:45 am and welcoming new pastor Andris Berry.

~ Choir practice will be at the church at 7 pm.

Opportunities ~ The Community Food Cupboard is collecting items for baking this month. They are also looking for a person from our church to serve as a board member.

Happy Birthday to Matthew Sommons today,
to Dominique Dease on Thursday,
and Happy Anniversary to Brittany and Jacob Dombroski on Friday!

Word of Preparation ~ John Hess

Prelude ~ The choir will sing ***“For You and Me”***
as we prepare our hearts for worship.



Call to Worship ~ **Selected verses from Psalm 25 (NIV)**

read by John Hess with congregation joining on bolded lines.

¹ In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

⁴ **Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.**

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,

for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

¹⁴ The Lord confides in those who fear him;
he makes his covenant known to them.

¹⁵ My eyes are ever on the Lord

²¹ **May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope, Lord, is in you.**

Song ~ ***“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*** (#622, blue hymnal)

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more*

*Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield
Be thou still my strength and shield*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside
Bear me through the swelling current; land me safe on Cannan's side
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee
I will ever give to thee*

Words ~ William Williams, 1745, Music ~ John Hughes, 1907 | 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 ~ “Open My Eyes, That I May See” (#586, blue hymnal)

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free
Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear
Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere
Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share
Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Words and Music Clara H. Scott, 1895 | Public Domain

Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca

Scripture Passage ~ 1 Samuel 9 - 10:1 (NIV) read by John Hess

¹ There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bekorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin.

² Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else.

³ Now the donkeys belonging to Saul’s father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul, “Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys.”

⁴ So he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and through the area around Shalisha, but they did not find them. They went on into the district of Shaalim, but the donkeys were not there.

Then he passed through the territory of Benjamin, but they did not find them.

⁵ When they reached the district of Zuph, Saul said to the servant who was with him, “Come, let’s go back, or my father will stop thinking about the donkeys and start worrying about us.”

⁶ But the servant replied, “Look, in this town there is a man of God; he is highly respected, and everything he says comes true. Let’s go there now. Perhaps he will tell us what way to take.”

⁷ Saul said to his servant, “If we go, what can we give the man? The food in our sacks is gone.

We have no gift to take to the man of God. What do we have?”

⁸ The servant answered him again. “Look,” he said,

“I have a quarter of a shekel of silver. I will give it to the man of God so that he will tell us what way to take.”

[⁹ Formerly in Israel, if someone went to inquire of God, they would say, “Come, let us go to the seer,” because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.] (*continued*)

¹⁰ “Good,” Saul said to his servant. “Come, let’s go.”
So they set out for the town where the man of God was.

¹¹ As they were going up the hill to the town,
they met some young women coming out to draw water,
and they asked them, “Is the seer here?”

¹² “He is,” they answered. “He’s ahead of you.
Hurry now; he has just come to our town today,
for the people have a sacrifice at the high place.

¹³ As soon as you enter the town,
you will find him before he goes up to the high place to eat.

The people will not begin eating until he comes,
because he must bless the sacrifice;
afterward, those who are invited will eat.

Go up now; you should find him about this time.”

¹⁴ They went up to the town, and as they were entering it,
there was Samuel, coming toward them on his way up to the high place.

¹⁵ Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed this to Samuel:

¹⁶ “About this time tomorrow

I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin.

Anoint him ruler over my people Israel;

he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines.

I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me.”

¹⁷ When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the Lord said to him,
“This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people.”

¹⁸ Saul approached Samuel in the gateway and asked,

“Would you please tell me where the seer’s house is?”

¹⁹ “I am the seer,” Samuel replied. “Go up ahead of me to the high place,
for today you are to eat with me, and in the morning

I will send you on your way and will tell you all that is in your heart.

²⁰ As for the donkeys you lost three days ago,
do not worry about them; they have been found.

And to whom is all the desire of Israel turned,
if not to you and your whole family line?”

(Continued on the next page)

²¹ Saul answered, “But am I not a Benjamite,
from the smallest tribe of Israel,
and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin?
Why do you say such a thing to me?”

²² Then Samuel brought Saul and his servant into the hall and seated
them at the head of those who were invited—about thirty in number.

²³ Samuel said to the cook,
“Bring the piece of meat I gave you, the one I told you to lay aside.”

²⁴ So the cook took up the thigh with what was on it
and set it in front of Saul.

Samuel said, “Here is what has been kept for you.
Eat, because it was set aside for you for this occasion
from the time I said, ‘I have invited guests.’”

And Saul dined with Samuel that day.

²⁵ After they came down from the high place to the town,
Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house.

²⁶ They rose about daybreak, and Samuel called to Saul on the roof,
“Get ready, and I will send you on your way.”

When Saul got ready, he and Samuel went outside together.

²⁷ As they were going down to the edge of the town, Samuel said to Saul,

“Tell the servant to go on ahead of us”—and the servant did so—

“but you stay here for a while,

so that I may give you a message from God.”

^{10:1} Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul’s head
and kissed him, saying,

“Has not the Lord anointed you ruler over his inheritance?”

Sermon ~ “*Seeing What God is Doing*” ~ Pastor Rebecca

Song ~ The Worship Team will lead us in singing

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Chorus

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

Verse

To see You high and lifted up

Shining in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy

Bridge

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

I want to see You

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Communion ~ Everyone is welcome to partake of the bread and juice
as we remember and give thanks for Christ's sacrifice
to provide salvation and eternal life for all who believe in Him.



Sung Benediction ~ “Shalom to You Now” (#436, blue hymnal)

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends

In all your living and through your loving

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom

Words ~ Elise S. Eslinger, Music ~ Traditional Spanish melody
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