

Worship Service on October 22, 2023

Welcome and Announcements ~ Jim West

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Harvest Party yesterday!

Today ~ You are invited to our Southwest Association Annual Gathering at the First Baptist Church in South Londonderry at 3 pm for worship, a meeting, and a potluck dinner.

Tuesday ~ We will meet for prayer group and the discussion of chapters 20-23 in *Gentle and Lowly* at 7 pm via zoom. Please consider joining the Prayer Group as we begin a new book in November.

Wednesday ~ Wisdom of the Body meeting at the Sommons' home at 10 am.

Looking ahead ~ There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 5th following the worship service to authorize funds to repair the sanctuary wall.

Ongoing 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 Judy Koch today, to John Hess tomorrow, Martha Thompson on Wednesday, & Jim Holden on Saturday!



Word of Preparation ~ Jim West

Prelude ~ Please listen to the choir sing *“He’s the Lily in My Valley”* as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship ~ Hebrews 6:13-19a (GNT) read by Jim West.
Please join in reading the bold lines.

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham,
he made a vow to do what he had promised.

**Since there was no one greater than himself,
he used his own name when he made his vow.**

¹⁴ He said, “I promise you that I will bless you
and give you many descendants.”

¹⁵ **Abraham was patient,
and so he received what God had promised.**

¹⁶ When we make a vow,
we use the name of someone greater than ourselves,
and the vow settles all arguments.

¹⁷ **To those who were to receive what he promised,
God wanted to make it very clear
that he would never change his purpose;
so he added his vow to the promise.**

¹⁸ There are these two things, then, that cannot change
and about which God cannot lie.

**So we who have found safety with him are greatly encouraged
to hold firmly to the hope placed before us.**

¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for our lives.
It is safe and sure ...

Song ~ The worship team will lead us in singing **“Forever”**

Give thanks to the Lord, Our God and King

His love endures forever

For He is good, He is above all things

His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm

His love endures forever

For the life that's been reborn

His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

Sing praise, sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful

Forever God is strong

Forever God is with us

Forever, forever

From the rising to the setting sun

His love endures forever

And by the grace of God we will carry on

His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

Sing praise, sing praise

Chorus two times

CCLI Song # 3148428

Chris Tomlin

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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 ~ “This Is My Father’s World” (#59 in the blue hymnal)

This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears

All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres

This is my Father’s world; I rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; God’s hands the wonders wrought

This is my Father’s world; the birds their carols raise

The morning light, the flowers bright, declare their Maker’s praise

Our God has made this world and shines in all that’s fair

In the rustling grass I hear God pass, who speaks to me everywhere

Our God has made this world; oh let us ne’er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet

God trusts us with this world, to keep it clean and fair

All earth and trees, the skies and seas, God’s creatures everywhere

Words ~ Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

Music ~ English melody adapted by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

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Introducing the Sermon ~ Rev. Rebecca Sommons

Scripture Text ~ 1 Samuel 12:1-25 (TLB) read by Jim West

Then Samuel addressed the people again:

“Look,” he said, “I have done as you asked. I have given you a king.

² I have selected him ahead of my own sons
and now I stand here, an old, gray-haired man
who has been in public service from the time he was a lad.

³ Now tell me as I stand before the Lord and before his anointed king—
whose ox or donkey have I stolen?

Have I ever defrauded you? Have I ever oppressed you?

Have I ever taken a bribe?

Tell me and I will make right whatever I have done wrong.”

⁴ “No,” they replied,

“you have never defrauded or oppressed us in any way
and you have never taken even one single bribe.”

⁵ “The Lord and his anointed king are my witnesses,” Samuel declared,
“that you can never accuse me of robbing you.”

“Yes, it is true,” they replied.

⁶ “It was the Lord who appointed Moses and Aaron,” Samuel continued.

“He brought your ancestors out of the land of Egypt.

⁷ “Now stand here quietly before the Lord as I remind you
of all the good things he has done for you and for your ancestors:

⁸ “When the Israelites were in Egypt and cried out to the Lord,
he sent Moses and Aaron to bring them into this land.

⁹ But they soon forgot about the Lord their God,
so he let them be conquered by Sisera,
the general of King Hazor’s army,
and by the Philistines and the king of Moab.

¹⁰ “Then they cried to the Lord again
and confessed that they had sinned by turning away from him
and worshiping the Baal and Ashtaroth idols.

And they pleaded, ‘We will worship you and you alone
if you will only rescue us from our enemies.’ *(Continued on the next page)*

¹¹ Then the Lord sent Gideon, Barak, Jephthah, and Samuel to save you,
and you lived in safety.

¹² “But when you were afraid of Nahash, the king of Ammon,
you came to me and said that you wanted a king to reign over you.

But the Lord your God was already your King,
for he has always been your King.

¹³ All right, here is the king you have chosen.
Look him over. You have asked for him,
and the Lord has answered your request.

¹⁴ “Now if you will fear and worship the Lord,
and listen to his commandments
and not rebel against the Lord,
and if both you and your king follow the Lord your God,
then all will be well.

¹⁵ But if you rebel against the Lord’s commandments
and refuse to listen to him,
then his hand will be as heavy upon you as it was upon your ancestors.

¹⁶ “Now watch as the Lord does great miracles.

¹⁷ You know that it does not rain at this time of the year,
during the wheat harvest;
I will pray for the Lord to send thunder and rain today,
so that you will realize the extent of your wickedness
in asking for a king!”

¹⁸ So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain;
and all the people were very much afraid of the Lord and of Samuel.

¹⁹ “Pray for us lest we die!” they cried out to Samuel.
“For now we have added to all our other sins by asking for a king.”

²⁰ “Don’t be frightened,” Samuel reassured them.
“You have certainly done wrong,
but make sure now that you worship the Lord with true enthusiasm,
and that you don’t turn your back on him in any way.

²¹ Other gods can’t help you. *(Continued on the next page)*

²² The Lord will not abandon his chosen people,
for that would dishonor his great name.

He made you a special nation for himself—just because he wanted to!

²³ “As for me, I will certainly not sin against the Lord
by ending my prayers for you;

and I will continue to teach you those things which are good and right.

²⁴ “Trust the Lord and sincerely worship him;
think of all the tremendous things he has done for you.

²⁵ But if you continue to sin,
you and your king will be destroyed.”

Sermon~ “Influencing the Next Generation” ~ Rev. Sommons

Song ~ “Sweet Hour of Prayer” (#570 in the blue hymnal)

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care,

And bids me at my Father’s throne make all my wants and wishes known

In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief

And oft escaped the tempters’ snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!

The joys I feel, the bliss I share

Of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return

With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face

And gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!

Thy wings shall my petition bear

To him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless,

And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace

I’ll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Words ~ William Walford, 1845, Music ~ William B. Bradbury | Public Domain

Benediction ~ Based on selected verses from Psalm 112 (TPT)

“The Triumph of Faith”

May we remember

*that everyone who loves the Lord and delights in him
will cherish his words and be blessed beyond expectation.
Every generation of the righteous will experience his favor.*

*Great blessing fills the house of the wise,
for their integrity endures forever.*

*Even if darkness overtakes them,
light will come bursting through
because they are gracious to others,
so tender and true.*

*Their circumstances will not shake them
and others will never forget their example.*

*They will not live in fear or dread of what may come,
for their hearts are firm,
ever secure in their faith.*

*Never stingy and always generous to those in need,
they lived lives of influence and honor that will never be forgotten,
for they were full of good deeds.*

*May this be true of us
and bring glory to our faithful God!*

Amen

