

Worship Service on October 8, 2023

Welcome and Announcements ~ Brenda Smith

Today ~ We will have a church business meeting following a short break at the conclusion of the worship service.

Tuesday ~ Prayer group will meet at the church at 7 pm to pray and then discuss chapters 16-19 in *Gentle and Lowly*.

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

Thursday ~ Our Mary and Martha women's group will be preparing food for the Chicken Pie Supper and distributing it from 5–6 pm. Thank you for your help! Please let Martha Thompson know if you would like to make a reservation.
~ Choir practice will be at the church at 7 pm.

Looking ahead ~ The Missions Committee has invited Scott Rancourt from Journey True North to be our special speaker next Sunday morning.
~ We will be hosting a Harvest Party for families on Saturday, October 21st from 2 – 4 pm.
~ The Annual Meeting for American Baptist Churches in the Southwest region of Vermont will be at 3 pm on October 22nd at the Baptist Church in South Londonderry.

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 Anniversary to Lisa and Chris Towslee on Thursday,
to Holly and J.R. O'Brien on Friday, and
to Martha and Bill Bowen next Sunday.

Thank you to Craig and Kay Keith for the flowers today
in honor of the dedicated members of their FBC family.

Word of Preparation ~ Brenda Smith

Prelude ~ Please join in singing

“You Are My Hiding Place” (#554, blue hymnal)

as we prepare our hearts for worship.

You are my hiding place

You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you

I will trust in you

Let the weak say, “I am strong in the strength of my God

You are my hiding place

You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you.

Words and Music ~ Michael Ledner | 1981 Maranatha! Music

Call to Worship ~ Proverbs 3:1-6 (TPT)

read by Brenda Smith with congregation joining on bolded lines.

My child, if you truly want a long and satisfying life,
never forget the things that I've taught you.

Follow closely every truth that I've given you.

Then you will have a full, rewarding life.

Hold on to loyal love and don't let go,
and be faithful to all that you've been taught.

**Let your life be shaped by integrity,
with truth written upon your heart.**

That's how you will find favor and understanding
with both God and men—

you will gain the reputation of living life well.

**Trust in the Lord completely,
and do not rely on your own opinions.**

With all your heart rely on him to guide you,
and he will lead you in every decision you make.

**Become intimate with him in whatever you do,
and he will lead you wherever you go.**

Song ~ The Worship Team will lead us in singing “Step By Step”

O God You are my God, and I will ever praise You

O God You are my God, and I will ever praise You

I will seek You in the morning, and I will learn to walk in Your ways

And step by step You'll lead me, and I will follow You all of my days

[Repeat]

And I will follow you all of my days. I will follow you all of my days

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days

CCLI Song # 696994

David (Beaker) Strasser

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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.

Choir Song ~ “God’s Work”

Song ~ “Spirit of the Living God” (#259, blue hymnal)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me

Words and Music ~ Daniel Iverson, 1926 | Birdwing Music, 1965

Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca

Scripture Passage ~ 1 Samuel 10 (NIV)

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?”

² When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel’s tomb,
at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you,
‘The donkeys you set out to look for have been found.
And now your father has stopped thinking about them
and is worried about you.

He is asking, “What shall I do about my son?”

³ “Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor.
Three men going up to worship God at Bethel will meet you there.
One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread,
and another a skin of wine.

⁴ They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread,
which you will accept from them.

⁵ “After that you will go to Gibeath of God,
where there is a Philistine outpost.

As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets
coming down from the high place
with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them,
and they will be prophesying.

⁶ The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you,
and you will prophesy with them;

and you will be changed into a different person. *(Continued on the next page)*

⁷ Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do,
for God is with you.

⁸ “Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you
to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings,
but you must wait seven days until I come to you
and tell you what you are to do.”

⁹ As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart,
and all these signs were fulfilled that day.

¹⁰ When he and his servant arrived at Gibeah,
a procession of prophets met him;
the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him,
and he joined in their prophesying.

¹¹ When all those who had formerly known him
saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other,
“What is this that has happened to the son of Kish?
Is Saul also among the prophets?”

¹² A man who lived there answered, “And who is their father?”
So it became a saying: “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

¹³ After Saul stopped prophesying, he went to the high place.

¹⁴ Now Saul’s uncle asked him and his servant,
“Where have you been?”
“Looking for the donkeys,” he said.
“But when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel.”

¹⁵ Saul’s uncle said, “Tell me what Samuel said to you.”

¹⁶ Saul replied, “He assured us that the donkeys had been found.”
But he did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about the kingship.

¹⁷ Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the Lord at Mizpah

¹⁸ and said to them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:
‘I brought Israel up out of Egypt,
and I delivered you from the power of Egypt
and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.’
¹⁹ But you have now rejected your God,
who saves you out of all your disasters and calamities.

(Continued on the next page)

And you have said, ‘No, appoint a king over us.’
So now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans.”

²⁰ When Samuel had all Israel come forward by tribes,
the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot.

²¹ Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan,
and Matri’s clan was taken. Finally Saul son of Kish was taken.
But when they looked for him, he was not to be found.

²² So they inquired further of the Lord, “Has the man come here yet?”
And the Lord said, “Yes, he has hidden himself among the supplies.”

²³ They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people
he was a head taller than any of the others.

²⁴ Samuel said to all the people,
“Do you see the man the Lord has chosen?
There is no one like him among all the people.”
Then the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

²⁵ Samuel explained to the people the rights and duties of kingship.
He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the Lord.
Then Samuel dismissed the people to go to their own homes.

²⁶ Saul also went to his home in Gibeah,
accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched.

²⁷ But some scoundrels said, “How can this fellow save us?”
They despised him and brought him no gifts.
But Saul kept silent.

Sermon ~ “*Helping Others See What God is Doing*” ~ Pastor Rebecca

Song ~ “I Would Be True” (#608, blue hymnal)

*I would be true, for there are those who trust me
I would be pure, for there are those who care
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer
I would be brave, for there is much to dare
I would be brave, for there is much to dare
I would be friend of all ~ the foe the friendless
I would be giving, and forget the gift
I would be humble, for I know my weakness
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift
I would look up, and laugh, and love and lift*

Words ~ Howard Arnold Walter, 1906 & Music ~ Joseph Yates Peek, 1909

Benediction ~ based on Ephesians 4:1-2 (TPT)

May we walk holy, in a way that is suitable to our high rank,
given to us in our divine calling.
With tender humility and quiet patience,
may we always demonstrate gentleness and generous love
toward one another,
especially toward those who may try our patience.
Be faithful to guard the sweet harmony
of the Holy Spirit among us in the bonds of peace,
being one body and one spirit, as we are all called
into the same glorious hope of divine destiny.
Amen

