

Worship Service for July 20, 2025

Welcome and Announcements ~

Lois Squires

Thank you to those who helped to bless baby Charlotte
and the Dombroski family last Wednesday.

Tuesday ~ The Uplift Cancer Support Group will meet
in the fellowship room at 2:30 pm.

Thursday ~ There is a Job Bible Study meeting in the fellowship room
at 1:30 pm.

~ The Solicitation Training for the Preservation Team will take
place from 3 – 5 pm at the church.

~ Celebrations ~

Happy Birthday to Jim West on Monday



*Thank you to Russ and Glenna for the flowers
In loving memory of George and Barbara Bauersfeld.*

Word of Preparation ~

Lois Squires

Prelude ~ Please listen to a song called “*Another in the Fire*”
as we prepare our hearts for worship.

CCLI Song # 7124907
Chris Davenport | Joel Houston
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Call to Worship ~selected verses from Isaiah 43 & Matthew 5 (MSG)

Please join in reading the bold lines.

“Don’t be afraid, I’ve redeemed you.

I’ve called your name. You’re mine.

When you’re in over your head, I’ll be there with you.

When you’re in rough waters, you will not go down.

When you’re between a rock and a hard place,

it won’t be a dead end—

Because I am God, your personal God,

The Holy of Israel, your Savior.

“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution.

The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

“Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you
down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me.

What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort

and they are uncomfortable.

You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—

for though they don’t like it, I do! And all heaven applauds.

And know that you are in good company.

My prophets and witnesses

have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

You’re here to be light—shine!

God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this...

“You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’

and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’

I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies.

Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst.

When someone gives you a hard time, respond with prayer,

for then you are working out of your true selves,

your God-created selves.

Song ~ “Stand By Me” (#629 in the blue hymnal)

*When the storms of life are raging, stand by me
When the storms of life are raging, stand by me
When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea
Thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me*

*In the midst of tribulation, stand by me
In the midst of tribulation, stand by me
When the hosts of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail
Thou who never lost a battle, stand by me*

*In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me
In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me
When I’ve done the best I can, and my friends misunderstand
Thou who knowest all about me, stand by me*

*In the midst of persecution, stand by me
In the midst of persecution, stand by me
When my foes in war array undertake to stop my way
Thou who saved Paul and Silas, stand by me*

Words and Music ~ Charles Albert Tindley, 1906, arr. Floyd Knight Jr., 1993

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 ~ “You Never Let Go”

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life
I won't turn back. I know You are near*

**Pre-Chorus ~ And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me
And if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?**

**Chorus
Oh no, You never let go, through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go, in every high and every low
Oh no, You never let go. Lord, You never let go of me**

*And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes, we'll live to know You here on the earth*

Pre-chorus and Chorus

**Bridge ~ Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles but until that day comes
Still I will praise You. Still I will praise You
(REPEAT)**

**Chorus
You keep on running' and You never let go, Singing**

Chorus

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Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca Sommons

Scripture Text ~ Acts 6:8-7:2a, 48-60 (GNT)

⁸ Stephen, a man richly blessed by God and full of power,
performed great miracles and wonders among the people.
⁹ But he was opposed by some men
who were members of the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called),
which had Jews from Cyrene and Alexandria.
They and other Jews from the provinces of Cilicia and Asia
started arguing with Stephen.
¹⁰ But the Spirit gave Stephen such wisdom that when he spoke,
they could not refute him.
¹¹ So they bribed some men to say,
“We heard him speaking against Moses and against God!”
¹² In this way they stirred up the people,
the elders, and the teachers of the Law.
They seized Stephen and took him before the Council.
¹³ Then they brought in some men to tell lies about him.
“This man,” they said, “is always talking against our sacred Temple
and the Law of Moses.
¹⁴ We heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth
will tear down the Temple and change all the customs
which have come down to us from Moses!”
¹⁵ All those sitting in the Council fixed their eyes on Stephen
and saw that his face looked like the face of an angel.
7:1 The High Priest asked Stephen, “Is this true?”
² Stephen answered, “Brothers and fathers, listen to me!...
The Most High God does not live in houses built by human hands;
as the prophet says,
⁴⁹ *‘Heaven is my throne, says the Lord, and the earth is my footstool.
What kind of house would you build for me?
Where is the place for me to live in?
⁵⁰ Did not I myself make all these things?’*
(Continued on the next page)

⁵¹ “How stubborn you are!” Stephen went on to say.
“How heathen your hearts, how deaf you are to God's message!
You are just like your ancestors:
you too have always resisted the Holy Spirit!
⁵² Was there any prophet that your ancestors did not persecute?
They killed God's messengers,
who long ago announced the coming of his righteous Servant.
And now you have betrayed and murdered him.
⁵³ You are the ones who received God's law,
that was handed down by angels—
yet you have not obeyed it!”
⁵⁴ As the members of the Council listened to Stephen,
they became furious and ground their teeth at him in anger.
⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit,
looked up to heaven and saw God's glory
and Jesus standing at the right side of God.
⁵⁶ “Look!” he said.
“I see heaven opened and the Son of Man
standing at the right side of God!”
⁵⁷ With a loud cry the Council members
covered their ears with their hands.
Then they all rushed at him at once,
⁵⁸ threw him out of the city and stoned him.
The witnesses left their cloaks
in the care of a young man named Saul.
⁵⁹ They kept on stoning Stephen as he called out to the Lord,
“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”
⁶⁰ He knelt down and cried out in a loud voice,
“Lord! Do not remember this sin against them!”
He said this and died.

Sermon ~ “God Is with You” ~ Pastor Rebecca Sommons

Song ~ “It is Well with My Soul” (#561 in the blue hymnal)

*When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
It is well. It is well with my soul*

Chorus

***It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul***

*Tho' Satan should buffet. Tho' trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul **(Chorus)***

*My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! **(Chorus)***

*And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul **(Chorus)***

CCLI Song # 25376

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Benediction ~ Philippians 4:7 & 13 (GNT)

May God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding,
keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.
And may you have the strength to face all conditions
by the power that Christ gives you.