

Worship Service on September 24, 2023

Welcome and Announcements ~ Cheryl Hess

Today~ Alpha will be meeting from 5-7 pm in the church fellowship room for pizza and brownie sundaes and conversations about life and faith.

Tuesday ~ Prayer Group will meet at 7 pm in the church fellowship room to pray and discuss chapters 14-15 in the book *Gentle and Lowly*.

Thursday ~ Choir practice will be at the church at 7 pm, and all are welcome to join.

Saturday ~ The Dorset Church will have their Annual Rummage Sale from 9 am to 1 pm.

Next Sunday ~ There is a Mission Impossible youth activity for 6th to 12th graders from 5-7 pm beginning and ending at the First Congregational Church.

Reminders ~ The Community Food Cupboard is collecting items for quick meals for September.

The Mission offering this month will go to United Missions Basic. Thank you for contributing what you can.

Happy Birthday to Bonnie Lincoln on Monday
and to Dan Brockett on Tuesday!



Thank you to Lisa Towslee for the flowers today.

Word of Preparation ~ Cheryl Hess

Prelude ~ Please listen as the choir sings ***“I See the Lord”***
as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship ~ Selected verses from Isaiah 33 (NIV)
read by Cheryl Hess with congregation joining on bolded lines.

² Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you.

Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress.

⁵ The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high;

he will fill Zion with his justice and righteousness.

⁶ He will be the sure foundation for your times,
a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge;

the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.

¹⁰ “Now will I arise,” says the Lord.

“Now will I be exalted; now will I be lifted up.

¹⁴ The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless:

“Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire?

Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?”

¹⁵ Those who walk righteously and speak what is right,
who reject gain from extortion

and keep their hands from accepting bribes,

who stop their ears against plots of murder
and shut their eyes against contemplating evil—

¹⁶ **they are the ones who will dwell on the heights,
whose refuge will be the mountain fortress.**

¹⁷ Your eyes will see the king in his beauty
and view a land that stretches afar.

²² For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver,
the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.

Song ~ The Worship Team will lead us in singing

“How Great is Our God”

*The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice*

Chorus

***How great is our God
Sing with me, How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God***

*And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one ~ Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb, Lion and the Lamb*

Chorus

*Name above all names, worthy of all praise
My heart will sing, How great is our God
[sing twice]*

Chorus

CCLI Song # 4348399 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves
© 2004 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs
CCLI License # 11289244

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 ~ “All My Hope on God is Founded” (#88, blue hymnal)

*All my hope on God is founded, who does still my trust renew
Safe through change and chance God guides me, ever faithful, ever true
God unknown, God alone, seeks to claim my heart as home*

*Human pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray our trust
Though with care and toil we build them, tower and temple fall to dust
But God’s power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower*

*But in every time and season, out of love’s abundant store
God sustains the whole creation fount of life forevermore
We who share earth and air count on God’s unfailing care.*

Words and music by Joachim Neander, 1680; stanza 3 tr. By Fred P. Green
Hope Publishing Co. 1989

Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca

Scripture Passage ~ 1 Samuel 8:1-22 (NIV) read by Cheryl Hess

8 When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel’s leaders.

² The name of his firstborn was Joel
and the name of his second was Abijah,
and they served at Beersheba.

³ But his sons did not follow his ways.
They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes
and perverted justice.

(Continued on the next page)

⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together
and came to Samuel at Ramah.

⁵ They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways;
now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”

⁶ But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel;
so he prayed to the Lord.

⁷ And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you;
it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

⁸ As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt
until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods,
so they are doing to you.

⁹ Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know
what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.”

¹⁰ Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people
who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said,
“This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights:
He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses,
and they will run in front of his chariots.

¹² Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands
and commanders of fifties,
and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest,
and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.

¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves
and give them to his attendants.

¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage
and give it to his officials and attendants.

¹⁶ Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys
he will take for his own use.

¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your flocks,
and you yourselves will become his slaves.

¹⁸ When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you
have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

(Continued on the next page)

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel.
“No!” they said. “We want a king over us.”

²⁰ Then we will be like all the other nations,
with a king to lead us
and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

²¹ When Samuel heard all that the people said,
he repeated it before the Lord.

²² The Lord answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.”
Then Samuel said to the Israelites,
“Everyone go back to your own town.”

Sermon ~ “Trusting God When Things Change” ~ Pastor Rebecca

Song ~ “Be Still My Soul” (#566 in the blue hymnal)

*Be still, my soul: for God is on your side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Trust in your God, your savior and your guide
Who through all changes faithful will remain
Be still my soul; your best, your heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end
Be still, my soul; for God will undertake
To guide the future surely as the past
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last
Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know
The voice that calmed them in this world below
Be still my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall dwell with God forevermore
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored
Be still my soul: when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last*

Words ~ Katherina von Schlegel, Music ~ Jean Sibelius | Public Domain

Benediction ~ from Revelation 21

May we look ahead to the time when God will be with us
as King on earth as in Heaven ~

¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and there was no longer any sea.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people,
and he will dwell with them.

They will be his people,
and God himself will be with them
and be their God.

⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death’ or mourning
or crying or pain,
for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said,
“I am making everything new!”

Then he said,
“Write this down,
for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done.
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the Beginning and the End.