

Announcements – Jordan

Good morning, and welcome to worship. It is good to have you with us today, whether in person or online.

A National Time of Prayer takes place on Saturday, September 26th from noon until 2:00 p.m.

Kid's Korner – Jordan

Call to Worship – Hebrews 12:1-4, 22-24a, 28

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,

²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant,

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

Joys and Concerns – Jordan

Please keep the following in your prayers –

Donna Miles will have knee replacement surgery on Tuesday.

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Rob Hutchinson and family on the loss of his aunt – Blanche Hutchinson Horseman.

Continue to remember at home – LaMar Hundley and Rochelle Phillips.

Please remember the residents of California, Oregon, and Washington, who have suffered so much loss as a result of wildfires and the people along the Gulf coast who have lost so much because of the hurricane and its flooding.

If you would like a copy of the complete prayer list, it is at the end of the bulletin for this morning. Copies can be downloaded from the church web site or by scanning one of the QR codes posted in the church.

Morning Prayer – Ross Webb

Special Music – Laine Kephart

Message – Dave

Message Title – *What Did Jesus Do? He Told Us Not To Worry.*

Scripture Reading – Matthew 6:25-34.

²⁵ *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”*

²⁶ *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*

²⁷ *Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*

²⁸ *“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.*

²⁹ *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.*

³⁰ *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?*

³¹ *So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’*

³² *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Invitation Hymn

Offering Meditation – Dave

We are living in a time when good news is very much welcome, so I will share some good news with you this morning related to giving in churches. After most churches experienced a decline in giving at the beginning of the pandemic, almost 2/3 of churches now report that giving is either stable or has even increased.

<https://religionnews.com/2020/09/15/churches-report-giving-boost-months-after-pandemic-started/>

One of the results of the pandemic, I believe, is the reminder that while the church as a whole will always continue, not every individual church survives. We all valued the church before the pandemic came to us, but once the pandemic arrived, we realized to an even greater extent what our church means to us, and how much we value it. People all across our nation – and around the world – have stepped up and given even more sacrificially to their churches, understanding in an ever greater way the importance of the church to our lives, and that is indeed very good news.

Stewardship Prayer – Dave

We are grateful, Lord, for the promise that your church will continue through to the end of time. As Jesus told us, the gates of hell itself will not overcome the church (Matthew 16:18). We are grateful for every church around the world and for the work being done by each of those congregations. The church is represented in almost every tongue around the globe and is represented by every ethnicity. The church is found in cities, towns, and in the countrysides. Every type of worship is offered, and that worship takes place in grand cathedrals, humble buildings, and homes in every corner of the world. And for this church, Lord, we give thanks. This church has nourished, comforted, challenged, and cared for us. It is where your people, in this community, have gathered for almost 200 years, and it will continue to gather far beyond our own time in this world. For this gift, and for every good gift we receive from you, we offer our thanks in the name of Jesus, amen.

Doxology – played, but no singing

Communion Meditation – Dave

Whatever worries you are carrying with you today, leave them at the table. Whatever is making you anxious this day, leave at the table. I know that is far easier said than done, but remember that Jesus tell us *do not let your hearts be troubled* (John 14:1). Receive the peace of Christ this day, and all days.

Prayer for the bread and cup.

Prayer – James Powell

The Lord’s Prayer

*This we pray in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.*

Words of institution – *when Jesus met with his disciples for the Last Supper, he took the bread and broke it. As he broke it, he said, “this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me.”
And he took the cup also and said, “this cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Benediction – Dave

*May God bless you with Discomfort...at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.
May God bless you with Anger...at Injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

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*May God bless you with Tears...to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless you with enough Foolishness...to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.
—Franciscan Benediction*

And amen. Go in peace, and God bless you
