

**MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION**  
*The Lord's Day*  
**October 31, 2021**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch**

**Prelude: Mrs. Lynne Fowlkes, flute**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*  
*By Martin Luther, arranged by Joel Raney*

**Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-4**

**The Invocation**

**\*Hymn of Praise 76**

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*  
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
To his feet your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me, his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him, still the same forever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless;  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise him, praise him,  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes;  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise him, praise him,  
Widely as his mercy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,  
Blows the wind and it is gone;  
But while mortals rise and perish,  
God endures unchanging on.  
Praise him, praise him,

Praise him, praise him,  
Praise the High Eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
You behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise him, praise him,  
Praise with us the God of grace.

**The Confession of Faith: (Adapted from the liturgy of the Church of South India. Accessed from The Daily Prayer Project: Ordinary Time 2. Copyright 2021).**

I believe in one God: who creates, loves, cares and corrects all people, who acts in history, and who promises never to leave us alone. I believe in Jesus of Nazareth: who is Lord, Christ and Redeemer, who wants not to be idealized, but to be followed. I believe that we live in the presence of the Holy Spirit, without whom we are nothing; filled with the Holy Spirit we are able to become creative, free, and full of life. I believe in the church of God in Jesus Christ: a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in the understanding of our faith through worship, fellowship, and acts of liberation. I believe that God has called us: to a partnership for the continuance of his mission in this time and place, and that, though we live in the midst of confusion, turmoil, exploitation, and oppression and in the grip of the forces of death, we are called to be the instruments of peace and justice. I believe that God brings about change: in people, in nature, and in the whole cosmos, that God makes the whole creation a new heaven and a new earth of justice, peace, harmony, and life in all its fullness.

**\*Song of Praise**

*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,  
And 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,  
The Lion and the Lamb. (*Chorus*)

(*Bridge*)  
Name above all names,  
Worthy of all praise;  
My heart will sing,  
“How great is our God!”

### **The Lord’s Prayer / Pastoral Prayer**

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.

### **Offertory: Chancel Choir**

***Show Me Christ***  
*Arranged by Daniel Grassi*

#### **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(*During this song, children ages 4-6 may go to Children’s Worship*)

### ***Sermon Series: Hope According to Isaiah***

***Sermon Text: Isaiah 42:1-9 (ESV)***

***Sermon Title: Behold, the Servant!***

***Pastor Jeff Birch***

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
<sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.*

<sup>4</sup> *He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.*

<sup>5</sup> *Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:*

<sup>6</sup> *“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,*

<sup>7</sup> *to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.*

<sup>8</sup> *I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to carved idols.*

<sup>9</sup> *Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
I tell you of them.”*

We are embarking this week on a new series of sermons that will take us through the Advent and Christmas seasons to the end of the year. The series is titled *Hope According to Isaiah* and will focus on various passages that speak of a hope in the midst of darkness.

Our thesis statement for this series is: hope is the engine that drives your soul. Isaiah is prophesying to a people in need of hope. He is writing to a people who have been facing exile, a sense of helplessness, and hopelessness and who are in great need. It is to them that a mysterious figure is introduced, the servant of the Lord. Isaiah 42 begins with the words, *Behold my servant* (Isa. 42:1). Who is this mysterious figure? What will he accomplish?

The theme of Isa. 42 is that this servant is committed to establishing justice in the earth, biblical justice that will put the world to rights. This also impacts how we live today. For it is biblical justice that allows us to:

- I. Live in Hope
- II. Live in Humility
- III. Live in Love

### **Reflection**

*“I am convinced that these believers – whom some may refer to as “the least of these” – may in fact be among the real champions of our faith. They limp through life barely able to remember the truth or connect the mighty doctrines of the faith to their struggles in a way that would calm their fears and quiet their hearts. They are told they must run toward God with all of their strength,*

*yet often find themselves barely able to lie on the ground facing the right direction. They cling to God desperately, but without ever feeling an assurance of his presence or an ability to rest in the love that surrounds them. Shall we plan more Bible studies for them? Shall we discipline them when they repent time and time again but can't quite seem to break free from deeply ingrained patterns of sin? I am convinced that these precious saints are among those Christ died for and are in their own way heroes of the faith, clinging to God in spite of the weakness of their faltering faith. They are the bruised reeds that we must not break and the smoldering wicks that our triumphalism would so easily extinguish (Matt. 12:20). They are the ones who believe in the face of their own struggles with unbelief (Mark 9:24). We must love them, bear their burdens gently, and help them to carry their loads, because they belong to us (Gal. 6:2). They are our family in the Lord.” (Barbara R. Duguid, Extravagant Grace)*

**\*Hymn 521**

***Man of Sorrows! What a Name***

Man of Sorrows! what a name  
For the Son of God, who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim:  
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
In my place condemned he stood,  
Sealed my pardon with his blood:  
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless, we;  
Spotless Lamb of God was he;  
Full atonement! can it be?  
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Lifted up was he to die,  
“It is finished!” was his cry;  
Now in heav’n exalted high:  
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

When he comes, our glorious King,  
All his ransomed home to bring,  
Then anew this song we'll sing:  
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

**\*The Benediction**

**Postlude**

*\*All songs covered by CCLI license #1257045*