



Lord's Day Worship || March 29, 2020

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." - Isaiah 55:8-9

Our plans have been changed, our schedules have been disrupted, and our church "gatherings" has been forced to go online. The thing that I need to constantly remind myself is that the Lord isn't confused or worried. He isn't out of control.

A profound comfort for every believer in the midst of unsettling change is that the Lord does not change (Mal. 3:6; Jam. 1:17). Our unchanging and all-powerful God is on His sovereign throne. The writer to the Hebrews reveals that our Lord "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever", and "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to [him]." (Heb. 13:8; Mt. 28:18). God does not change, nor do his great and precious promises in the Gospel. His steadfast love and mercy endure forever for those who are united to Christ, by grace through faith.

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ: pandemics, wars, and persecutions create massive change in the world. The effects can, at times, be or feel devastating to our earthly lives. Even so, like Christians who have endured these trials and changes in the past, we persevere in the Lord. We do not despair or lose hope. We, by grace, trust in the Lord, no matter what new challenges we may face. We worship and give thanks to the Lord no matter what changes might come in the future. The God who plans the future promises to meet us there. God never breaks or forgets his promises to us or to our children (Acts 2:39). Nothing can separate us from God's love — the love that sent Jesus from heaven to earth to the cross (Rom. 8:31-39). Missio Dei Church, let that sink in for a moment. All the change in the world — change which is a part of divine providence — cannot cut us off from sweet communion with our blessed triune God.

This is the time to put our faith into action as we take solace in these words from Romans 8:28. "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." May God grant us all peace and comfort as we journey through this together.

With much love and affection,

**CHRIST. COMMUNITY. CAUSE.**

[www.mdchurch.us](http://www.mdchurch.us)

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## **“What Matters Most in Church” - 2 Corinthians 10**

### **Call to Worship: Psalm 100**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

**Family: Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**

Leader: Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his;

**Family: we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**Family: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

### **Song of Adoration**

Sing the first song on the YouTube or Spotify play list. A link to the lyrics is found at the website.

### **Prayers of the People**

Spend a few moments praying with and for each other, our community, our church, our missionaries (Ambrose and Camiola Families), our nation, and the world.

### **Sermon**

Watch the teaching video from Pastor Paul. Here's YouTube Channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMH1wOLwfQUI6Xydt0HQP\\_Q/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMH1wOLwfQUI6Xydt0HQP_Q/)

### **Songs of Response**

Sing the next two songs on the YouTube or Spotify play list.

### **Sermon Discussion**

See the next page for discussion questions.

### **Giving of Our Offerings**

Remember to continue growing in your cheerful giving. Here flexible ways you can contribute during this time: <https://www.mdchurch.us/giving>

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one or two things that really jumped out to you?
2. Create a list of “impressive things” that people might be looking for when “church shopping.”
3. If you told someone that “our church isn't that impressive,” what might be their response?
4. What were you initially looking for when looking for a church?
5. How has your view of what is truly important for a church changed over the years? Has it been for better or has it been for worse?
6. At the end of the sermon Pastor Paul said (and yes, the video did cut out but at a very, very appropriate time):

*We have one thing going for us: Jesus. We have one message to talk about: Jesus. We are not the big deal. He is. Our only hope is what Jesus has done for us at the cross.*

*Do you want to brag about something? Brag about Jesus.*

How can you be praying specifically for our elders, deacons, ministry leaders, ministries, and church as a whole as we strive to build our lives on Jesus, put our hope in him, and boast only about him?

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The three points that Pastor Paul shared were:

1. Look for leaders who are gentle like Jesus.
2. Look for a church that helps you overcome the lies the world tells you.
3. Look for a church that boasts in the right things.

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