



**Wait for the Lord; be strong and
take heart and wait for the Lord.**

- Psalm 27:14 -

heartlight.org

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021

*Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 150

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in the sanctuary.

Praise God in the vault of heaven.

Praise God in the earth and skies.

Sing praises to the Lord.

Shout and sing praises to God.

We have witnessed God's mighty acts.

We have seen the Lord's greatness.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Let everything that draws breath

Praise the Lord!

*Hymn of Praise

"Come, Christians Join to Sing"

UMH 158

*Opening Prayer

O Living God of past and future, we praise you for this present moment. Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit, that our strength may be renewed to sing a new song of your glory in a world which longs for your justice and peace. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become your new creation. Amen.

Share How You Can Present Your Offering to God

Make your offering personal...through a donation or an act of service...bring to God an offering of praise and gratitude!

Sing the Doxology Together

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.

We Bow Our Hearts in Prayer

Lord, we are now into year two of this pandemic as we find ourselves still wrestling with the implications impacting our lives. We confess, as we did in the first year, we are weary of it all. We want to be through with it all! We are at the edge of frustration and even of futility. So many around us seem to be at that dangerous point of giving in and giving up. Lord, we confess that we didn't realize we were going to be running a marathon!

Meet us in the midst of the hardness...meet us at this intersection of the messiness of real life and our desire to follow You. Refresh our spirits with Your Holy Spirit today. Strengthen us on the inside so we can be strong on the outside. Empower us to run with endurance the race that is set before us, like Jesus did on His way to the Cross. Enable us to run and not be weary. Inspire us to take heart and not give up. With Jesus' power and in Jesus' name, Amen

The Lord's 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 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.

God's Word

Psalm 27:14

The Word of God for the people of God...Thanks be to God!

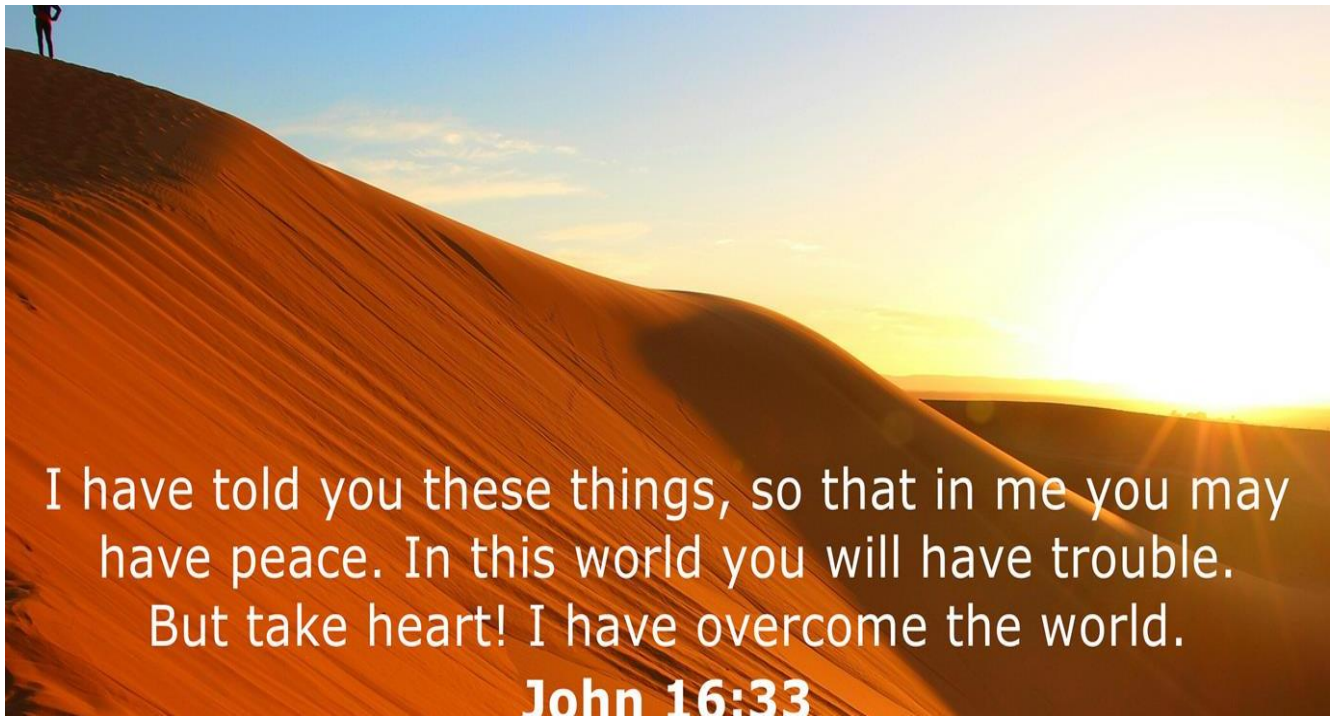
Message

Take Heart, Don't Quit, Stay with God"

Clark Hess

Blessing

*Go now, for you are chosen and sent in the Spirit.
Pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances.
Keep what is good, avoid every kind of evil.
To all in need bear witness that the time has come
when the Sovereign Lord will save his people.*



“Take Heart, Don’t Quit, Stay with God”

Psalm 27:14

“Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.” (NLT) “Stay with GOD! Take heart. Don’t quit. I’ll say it again: Stay with GOD.” (MSG)

Introduction

There is another pandemic raging across our world: ***the pandemic of people losing heart!*** People are weary with contending against a now two-year pandemic. People are losing heart struggling against the new realities this pandemic has created. People are losing heart just dealing with life challenges in this new environment that makes everything else harder. People are losing heart in the face of mounting calamities: hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, earthquakes, gun violence, racial tensions, etc.

What causes a person to lose heart? What makes a person want to give up? Why do we entertain fantasies about running away? ***We lose heart because we tie our hope to the wrong things.*** Your motivation to continue is only as strong as what you have placed your hope in. Perhaps that is why we so easily lose heart in the face of obstacles, opposition, or difficulty. We have placed our hope and our security in the wrong things.

Well, David has a clear and strong word for us in this new reality. *“Stay with GOD! Take heart. Don’t quit. I’ll say it again: Stay with GOD.”* Psalm 27:14 (MSG)

Stay With God!...Wait patiently for the Lord

Let’s be honest. We hate to wait. We won’t like long lines or delayed appointments. We don’t like obstacles in our way. In our culture, we don’t do waiting well.

But, it’s not just the inconvenience of waiting, but the soul-ramifications of waiting...it signals that we are not in control...that we are not in the center of our universe like we thought we were!

Some people get so uneasy about the not being in control, so they choose not to stay with God. They strike out on their own just to preserve some semblance of control, only to discover that leads them into more and more situations that lead into danger. They soon discover that they have lost their way altogether.

So why wait? In waiting, we humbly acknowledge that our lives don’t belong to us, that my life does not belong to me. When we wait humbly, we fall on our knees and open our hands and give our lives back to our Lord. Lord, do what you know is best with me and I will follow. I trust Your wisdom and Your grace.

One other thing about waiting. Spiritually speaking, in the kingdom realm, Paul David Tripp says that, *“Waiting is not about the suspension of meaning or purpose. It is part of the meaning and purpose God has brought into our lives. Waiting on God isn’t to be viewed as an obstruction in the way of the plan. Waiting is an essential part of the plan. **Waiting is primarily about what we become as we wait!**”*

Waiting restores us. Waiting heals us. Waiting shapes us. Waiting prepares us.

On our way back from our anniversary getaway, we came across a pottery store with a working potter in the northern Indiana town of Goshen. It was mesmerizing to stand there and watch him at work with nimble and skilled fingers. He applied pressure on the clay right where it was needed so that lump of clay would take on the beauty that resided within it as potential.

Next time you are asked to wait, think about that scene. The Master Potter skillfully, intricately working on your lump of clay with just the right amount of pressure here or there to produce beauty in your life. What an image!

Take Heart...*Be brave and courageous.*

“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NLT)

These same words are used in several dynamic situations in the OT: This is how Moses exhorted Joshua before leading Israel into battle (Deut. 31:7,23 and Joshua 1:6,7,9,18). David used these words when strengthening Solomon to assume leadership in the kingdom (1 Chronicles 22:13; 28:20). King Hezekiah exhorted his military officers when Sennacherib besieged Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 32:7). These are words of preparation for action in the face of difficult threats.

Paul David Tripp shares, however, that the *“take heart”* of Psalm 27 is different than most *“take hearts”* which are attempts to change our feelings about some present difficulty or disappointment. Here it is a call to wait upon the Lord. It is an invitation to rest in the one place where rest can truly be found—in the Lord.

Who is the One in whom we can take heart? He is the definition of love...God is love. God is the essence, the source. He is the source of all wisdom. He is the source of awesome power. This is a God of unchallenged rule. He is a God of glorious grace. When we do the hard work of waiting, we are establishing the lifeline connection to the Source of love, wisdom, power, and grace. God can then infuse our hearts with a courage we didn’t perhaps even know was there! *Where do need this enduring strength right now in your life?*

- Shrouded with grief after the passing of a loved one?
- Watching a loved one struggle mightily with cancer?
- Contending with unimaginable pain?
- Struggling to make ends meet with more bills than funds?

- Agonizing over your son or daughter's choices?
- Wrestling with a dream that is struggling to come to life?

You need a divine dose of Colossians 1:11!

*We pray that you'll have the **strength to stick it out over the long haul**—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the **glory-strength God gives**. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us."*

Don't Quit...*Yes, wait patiently for the LORD*

Facing the Giants is about a Christian high school football team and their coach, **Grant Taylor** (Alex Kendrick). In six years of coaching, Grant has never had a winning season. After realigning himself with God, Grant delivers his team a new philosophy. But he will need the leadership of one of his key seniors, **Brock Kelly** (Jason McLeod).

As the players are gathered for practice, one of them asks, *"So coach, how strong is Westview this year?"*

Brock answers, *"A lot stronger than we are."*

The coach asks, *"You already written Friday night down as a loss, Brock?"*

"Well, not if I knew we could beat 'em," Brock responds.

The coach says, *"Come here, Brock. You too, Jeremy."*

"What? Am I in trouble now?" asks Brock.

"Not yet," answers the coach. *"I want to see you do the death crawl again [a training exercise where Brock will crawl with a player on his back, without his knees touching the ground], except I want to see your absolute best."*

"What, you want me to go to the 30?" asks Brock.

"I think you can go to the 50."

"The 50? I can go to the 50 if nobody's on my back."

"I think you can do it with Jeremy on your back, but even if you can't, I want you to promise you're going to do your best."

"All right," Brock answers.

"One more thing," Coach Taylor adds. *"I want you to do it blindfolded."*

"Why?"

"Cause I don't want you giving up at a certain point when you could go further."

As Brock takes his position and Jeremy climbs on his back, the coach calls out: *"All right, Brock, let's go. Keep your knees off the ground. Just your hands and feet. There you go, just a little bit left. Show me good effort. That a way, Brock, you keep comin'. There you go, it's a good start."*

Brock then asks, *"Am I at the 20 yet?"*

"Forget the 20. You give me your best. Now, don't stop, Brock. You've got more in you than that."

As Brock slows to a stop, he utters, *"I'm not done, I'm just restin' a second."*

The coach continues to yell encouragement until Brock cries out, *"It hurts!"*

"Don't quit on me," the coach answers, *"your very best—keep drivin'."*

"He's heavy," Brock wheezes.

"I know he's heavy."

"I'm about out of strength."

"Then you negotiate with your body to find more strength," Taylor yells, raising his volume to exhort his player, *"but don't you give up on me, Brock. You're doin' good. Do not quit on me. It's all heart from here."*

By now the entire team is standing speechless, watching Brock continue on. The coach shouts: *"30 more steps...20 more...10 more...1 more,"* until Brock finally collapses. *"It's got to be the 50,"* Brock cries. *"It's got to be the 50; I don't have any more."*

"Look, Brock," says the coach, ***"you're in the end zone."***

Yes, sometimes waiting is hard work. What we become is the true payoff for this work of waiting. Brock grew up into a man during that 100-yards of excruciating waiting!

Conclusion

Christians behind the Iron Curtain in Ukraine and Serbia recently celebrated their Christmas. I was touched when I read a little article about Christmas Day in Sarejevo. The awful warfare was all around them, despite promise after promise of a cease-fire. The airport was closed. More than a dozen civilians had already been killed when the article was written. Shelling the residential sections of the city, the Serbian army, just to break morale, caused havoc on Christmas Day. One reporter was downtown when the horrid sounds of indiscriminate shelling died down. He said, "I suddenly was stopped in my tracks because from several directions, from several churches, I heard people singing Christmas carols." ***Friends, that's the spirit it's going to take in the future for Christianity in this broken nation. Trust in God and don't quit.***

Well, Hope and Faith Friends, that's the spirit it's going to take in the future for a vital Christianity in in Canal Winchester. Keep singing! Trust in God and don't quit.

Faith Café Resumes! For those who don't know, we provide fresh brewed coffee and homemade pastries or cookies and a listening ear for the staff and parents of Faith's Educare Preschool. We do this every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00-9:00 AM. We need bakers to provide homemade treats for Faith Café. And we need folks who love to chat with others as an expression of care and compassion. See Pastor Clark for details.

The Chosen Season Two Begins Tonight! at 6:00 PM at Faith UMC we will begin Season Two of the ***Chosen*** . If you haven't seen any of the episodes of season one, we have DVD's for you to catch a glimpse of them. It will fuel your desire to be part of season two.

Attention Choir members and Future Choir Members: The Hope/Faith Choir has begun practicing on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at the Hope Church. They are featured in our service today. We are looking forward to a great "choir" year of sharing our voices during our worship services. Any questions, please contact Dwight or Theresa Snowden.

Hopeful Hearts: Hope's baby clothing ministry has shifted to winter clothes but finds itself extremely low on clothing due to the pandemic dynamics. We urgently need donations—even new clothes—for this vital ministry. Boys and girls clothing birth to five years old. You can bring it to church on a Sunday or drop off at Hope.

New Adult Sunday School Class starting October 3, led by Matt Fields and Tom Helber each Sunday from 9:00-9:45 AM. They will show clips from season two of ***The Chosen*** and then lead a guided discussion on the Scriptures those scenes represent.

Trash and Treasure will be on October 1st & 2nd. The tables are now set up and Jan Baughman will be here Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 – 1:00 and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 – 4:00 for drop offs. Please do not leave items outside. If you need to drop off items at other times, or no one is at the church when you come, please call Jan at 614-837-3673 or 614-266-4845. You can also call Linda Fields at 614 570-3937. Both of us live close and can come let you in. For those of you who have keys to the church, please place your items in an obvious place. Jan will also need plenty of help sorting and pricing items. Please give her help whenever you

have time. Please hold off large items until the Thursday before the sale. The left over items will be picked up by the Kidney Foundation on the Monday following the sale. Linda Fields is in charge of the kitchen this year and is asking for donations for desserts. We would like to have lot of pies, a few cakes, and other desserts, but our pies have been a staple at the sale and are expected by our customers. We will also need plenty of help the week prior to the sale as we will be making our soups and sandwich makings.



- *Jan Yaple is in MCE undergoing dialysis, improving slightly*
- *Norma Jacks daughter Cindy as she struggles with Parkinson's disease*
- *Debbie Fields dealing with significant heart arrythmia issues*
- *Dustin Bower, in his recovery from elbow surgery*
- *Dan Matthew, Jeanne's husband, facing surgery for an aneurysm*
- *Debbie Piermont as she faces possible aneurysm surgery*
- *Jan Smith from Faith Church continuing treatments*
- *Christina Cuddihy, as she has completed her treatments*
- *Sarah Cory and Guy Cory as they contend with all they are facing*
- *Earl Kantner, declining with a variety of health issues*
- *For doctors, nurses, medical staff, EMS personnel as hospitals are overrun with COVID patients*
- *Community Focus: Schools, Students, and Staff dealing with COVID issues*
- *National Focus: Recovery from Hurricanes Ida and Nicholas*
- *World Focus: Small band of Christians still residing in Afghanistan*