



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

*Call to Worship

*The Lord is our light and our salvation;
whom shall we fear?*

***The Lord is the stronghold of our lives;
of whom shall we be afraid?***

*For he will hide us in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal us under the cover of his tent;
he will set us high on a rock.*

***Hear us, O Lord, when we cry aloud,
be gracious to us and answer us!***

Come, let us seek God's face together.

Your face, Lord, do we seek.

*Hymn of Praise

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

UMH 127

***Opening Prayer**

Lord, we come to you this morning with so many pressing concerns and issues that demand our attention. Our lives are burdened; our spirits are tired. We feel like pilgrims making our way through this barren land. Guide our lives and our steps as we walk this journey, inward and outward. Help us to discern what you would have us do, that others may be healed. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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.

The Prayer *Revive, Redeem, Restore* by David Adam

Lord, You are a present help in trouble.

Come, revive

Redeem

Restore

In our darkness come as Light

In our sadness come as joy

In our troubles come as peace

In our weakness come as strength

Come, Lord to our aid

Revive

Redeem

Restore us

O Lord

Open our eyes to Your Presence

Open our minds to Your grace

Open our lips to Your praises

Open our hearts to Your love

Open our lives to Your healing

And be found among us."

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 27:7-10

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

Message

"Come and Talk with Me"

Pastor Clark

*Hymn of Faith

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

UMH 496

The Lord's Supper

"An Invitation to Communion with God"

Blessing

*As you go from here,
may God—our source of our hope—
fill you up completely with joy and peace
so that you overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit!*



Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Sweet Hour of Prayer! Sweet Hour of Prayer

*1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

*2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

*3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

Come and Talk with Me

Psalm 27:7-10 (NLT)

"Hear me as I pray, O LORD. Be merciful and answer me!"⁸ My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming."⁹ Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don't leave me now; don't abandon me, O God of my salvation!¹⁰ Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close."

Once again, I am indebted to Paul David Tripp for seeds of inspiration for this message.

Introduction

In the face of trouble, we have a tendency to turn in one of three directions. In the face of trouble, some people hide from God, some people run away from God, and some people run toward God.

The ones that hide reminded me of an exchange between a pastor who had phoned the home of some recent visitors to his church, and a voice on the other end of the phone answered with a whispered...

"Hello."

The pastor said, *"Who is this?"*

The whisperer said, *"Jimmy."*

The pastor said, *"How old are you, Jimmy?"*

"Four."

"Well, Jimmy, can I please speak to your mom?"

"She's busy."

"Well then, Jimmy, can I please speak to your dad?"

"He's busy."

"Jimmy, are there any other adults in your home?"

"The police."

"Can I speak to one of the police officers?"

"They're busy."

"Jimmy, who else is there?"

"Firemen."

"Well, Jimmy, can you put one of the firemen on the phone?"

"They're all busy."

"Jimmy, what are they all busy doing?"

"They're busy looking for me."

Like Jimmy, a lot of people in life are hiding. They are hiding from the police or parents. They are hiding from coaches and teachers. Some of them are hiding from bosses, and others are hiding from spouses. Many people today are hiding from God. But that raises an important question: In light of the fact that God is everywhere and knows everything about us, what could possibly motivate us to want to hide from him?

The other two options involve running...running away from God or running toward God. David's experience in Psalm 27 is teaching us that in the face of trouble, don't run away from God but towards God. Here's an example of one person who ran from God and some others who ran toward God... **Jonah** ran away from God, God's call...**Shepherds** at Jesus' birth ran to God

#1 The Delusion of Independence

"In the busyness of your daily situations and relationships, where do you tend to forget how deep and consistent your need actually is for God's daily help? In what ways are you living as if you are more independent than you actually are?"

It is so easy to lose sight of how deeply we need God's daily help. In the rush of life, in the gravitational pull of too many distractions, in the overwhelming cultural bent toward living for our own agendas, we are prone to live life without God's daily help.

Paul David Tripp says, *"The quest for independence never ends in independence. It always ends in slavery. Why? Because we were carefully designed by the Creator to live in a dependent, obedient, and worshipful relationship with God."*

The unmistakable truth of Psalm 27 is that we are people in need of help...in fact, we are in desperate need of help...help beyond ourselves. Anything less than embracing that reality will leave us in danger.

#2 Wrestling in Prayer

"Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don't leave me now; don't abandon me, O God of my salvation!"

When you follow the flow of this passage, you come away with the sense that David is wrestling with the situation he finds difficult to understand...or even wrestling with God. There appears a sense in which David felt that God was *hiding* from him. *"Do not turn your back on me..."* or as some versions say, *"Do not hide Your face from me."*

Don't we too have those moments or seasons when life as we are experiencing it just doesn't make sense? We are confused and uncertain. It seems like God is hiding from us too! Part of praying in real life is this kind of wrestling prayer.

David's response can be helpful. David didn't become angry with God or turn against Him; in his disappointment **he sought God all the more diligently and desperately**, *"Do not leave me or abandon me."* *"You have always been my Helper; do not leave me now."*

David used God's **past help** as a reason to ask and expect and trust God's **future help**.

#3 God Is the Ultimate Helper!

*"Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. **You have always been my helper.** Don't leave me now; don't abandon me, O God of my salvation!"*

*"Yes, God is the ultimate Helper! God alone has the grace to rescue us from ourselves! God helps us with our *internal weaknesses* and also is able to remove the *external obstacles*. Because He is our*

Helper, we don't have to place the completion or success of the task on our shoulders. It's not our job to complete the task; it is our job to obey God's call." Paul David Tripp

Are there places where you are living with more fear and avoidance than with courage and hope? Are there places where you feel completely overwhelmed? Could it be you have left God, the ultimate Helper, out of the picture? You can be personally connected to this Helper.

You can live with confidence and courage. And that comes from the most amazing invitation imaginable.

*Dear God,
So far today,
I've done all right.
I haven't gossiped.
I haven't lost my temper.
I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over indulgent.
I'm very thankful for that.
But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed;
and from then on, I'm going to need a lot more help.
Amen*

#4 God's Astonishing Invitation

"My heart has heard you say, 'Come and talk with me.' And my heart responds, 'LORD, I am coming.'"

Years ago when my life was overstuffed with busyness and stress, I read a short devotional that gripped my heart. It began with this conversation:

"Hi. It's me. I'm sorry we haven't spoken in a while," I told him.

"I miss you. I've been calling, but you haven't answered. I'm glad you did today," he replied. I could hear the smile in his voice.

"Really? You called? I didn't get your messages."

"Have you checked your messages?"

"Um . . . guess not. Sorry! I didn't mean to ignore you. It's just that life gets crazy. Sometimes it's hard to find time to think, much less talk."

"I know. But you're here now. So, let's talk. Tell me. What's on your heart?"

God extends this same astonishing invitation to us as well. Richard J. Foster in his classic book on prayer entitled ***Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*** has this revealing piece about how we respond to God's invitation:

"Today the heart of God is an open wound of love. He aches over our distance and preoccupation. He mourns that we do not draw near to him. He grieves that we have forgotten him. He weeps over our

obsession with muchness and manyness. He longs for our presence. And he is inviting you - and me - to come home. For too long we have been in a far country: a country of noise and hurry and crowds, a country of climb and push and shove, a country of frustration and fear and intimidation. And he welcomes us home: home to serenity and peace and joy, home to friendship and fellowship and openness, home to intimacy and acceptance and affirmation.

We do not need to be shy. He invites us into the living room of his heart, where we can put on old slippers and share freely. He invites us into the kitchen of his friendship, where chatter and batter mix in good fun. He invites us into the dining room of his strength, where we can feast to our heart's delight. He invites us into the study of his wisdom, where we can learn and grow and stretch ... and ask all the questions we want. He invites us into the workshop of his creativity, where we can be co-laborers with him, working together to determine the outcomes of events. He invites us into the bedroom of his rest, where new peace is found and where we can be naked and vulnerable and free. It is also the place of deepest intimacy, where we know and are known to the fullest.

The key to this home, this heart of God, is prayer. Perhaps you have never prayed before except in anguish or terror. It may be that the only time the divine name has been on your lips has been in angry expletives. Never mind. I am here to tell you that the Father's heart is open wide—you are welcome to come in."

Have you ever heard or felt God wooing you by saying, "Come, talk with me?"

God wants to hear what's on your heart! Draw aside and pour out your heart to God. Then, do what might seem counterintuitive: be still and listen. That's right, be still and listen to God.

We often don't hear God's voice and invitation because we have somewhere been convinced that God spun this world into existence and then took leave of it all, aloof from the day-to-day happenings of our world, and expects us to do the best we can with what we've got. Or, we are too intimidated by God to think God would ever have the time or desire to spend with us.

When **Billy Graham** was a young evangelist, he was invited to meet with **Winston Churchill**, the great British wartime leader, during the Haringay Crusade in London. He was no doubt surprised and gratified to receive such an invitation. Although he maintained strict confidentiality concerning the details of his meeting with the prime minister, Dr. Graham did speak about his feelings as he was ushered into the prime minister's residence at 10 Downing Street. ***In the presence of eminence, the young Graham felt uncertain, perhaps even inadequate.***

King David, too, received an invitation one day that delighted him, but which no doubt caused him to feel some uncertainty, too. ***David was totally aware of the eminence and majesty of the Lord, and he needed no one to remind him of his humble origins as a shepherd boy outside Bethlehem.*** He

doubtless had overwhelming feelings of inadequacy as he made his way into the sanctuary to have his talk with the Lord. But it didn't stop him from meeting with God!

Maybe that's how we often feel too! Maybe we feel an overpowering sense of inadequacy in God's presence?

Even so, I ask again: ***Have you ever heard or felt God wooing you by saying, "Come, talk with me?"***

Conclusion

Oh the joy that awaits you when, like David, you respond, "*LORD, I am coming.*" What would responding to God's invitation to talk look like in our lives, in our day? This prayer by Angela Ashwin captures this well:

*"Lord,
this moment is Yours;
mine for You,
and Yours for me.
I need You,
I cannot survive without you;
and yet I go on rushing through life
as if I could do everything in my own strength.
Forgive me.
I know
that You care for me at all times,
and that I am always in Your hands;
but I still need to pause
and let my heart and spirit
be loved by you
into loving You again."*

Pray for One Another

- *Debbie Fields dealing with significant heart arrhythmia issues*
- *Dustin Bower, another elbow surgery scheduled for September 9*
- *Gene Fields, Matt's father, hernia surgery options*
- *Heather Martin, recovering at home; facing gall bladder surgery*
- *Elizabeth Jones, making remarkable recovery in a Rehab Hospital*
- *Jan Smith from Faith Church continuing treatments*
- *Christina Cuddihy, as she continues her treatments*
- *Sarah Cory and Guy Cory as they contend with all they are facing*
- *Earl Kantner, declining with a variety of health issues*
- *Bruce Holloway, following surgery this past Thursday for skin cancer*
- *Community Focus: Schools and Staff as new school year looms with risks*
- *National Focus: Aftermath of Hurricane Ida in the Gulf Coast*
- *World Focus: Those left in Afghanistan; small band of Christians still residing in Afghanistan*

A Look Ahead

The following is a sketch of some of the highlights in the coming months. More details for each event will follow.

September 5 ***Worship Returns to Hope Church***, Communion Sunday

This service will have a special prayer component for those seeking to receive God's healing or strengthening grace.

September 4 "***Labor Day Celebration***" ***Bologna Give Away***

September 19 ***Outdoor Worship and Church Wide Picnic*** at Home of Paul Owens

September 26 ***Grandparent's Celebration***

September 19 Start of ***Season Two of The Chosen*** at Faith Church

October 1-2 ***Trash and Treasure Sale*** at Hope Church

October 16 ***Chili-Cook Off and Game Night*** at Faith Church

Attention Choir members and Future Choir Members: *The Hope/Faith Choir will begin practicing on Wednesday September 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Hope Church. We will sing for the Sunday worship service on September 19, 2021. 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.*

Outdoor Worship and Picnic: *on Sunday September 19 we will have a special outdoor worship experience and a church-wide picnic! Put this on your calendar now as we will have all kinds of special features that morning!*

Pray for Haiti and Share Your Compassion: *Our hearts are once again touched with compassion for this beleaguered nation hit with another massive earthquake taking the lives of over 1400 and injuring thousands more. Scores left homeless. Desire to make a donation? Make to either Faith or Hope UMC and memo Haiti Offering and we will make sure it goes through UMCOR so you can be certain 100% of your donations go to meet the need at hand.*

Same with Hurricane Ida Relief...*make you donations out to Hope or Faith and memo Hurricane Ida and we will submit the gifts to UMCOR.*

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. Watch for more details.

Faith Café Resumes! We will restart for the fall on Tuesday September 14. For those who don't know, we provide fresh brewed coffee and homemade pastries or cookies 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 hosts as well. See Pastor Clark for details.

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.