

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

The Kingdom of God Comes
by Hearing, Luke 8:4-21 -
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October 24, 2021

Luke: Upside Down 2

Intro

Call to Worship - Isaiah 48:9-11

Today is a special day in the life of Antioch, where we turn our attention to God's heart for multiplying his church. It's natural for us to think of this in terms of church planting. Of course, God loves to birth new churches! But God also loves to bring dying churches back to life—to revitalize them.

Listen to him declare his heart through the prophet Isaiah:

9 “For my name’s sake I defer my anger;
for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you,
that I may not cut you off.
10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;
I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.
11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,
for how should my name be profaned?
My glory I will not give to another. Isaiah 48:9-11

The church is the people who are called by God's name, whom he created for his glory. But when churches languish in sin and division and nominalism, God's glory is hidden instead of magnified. When churches aren't shepherded according to God's word, they can become like a lighthouse with a broken bulb—picture it in your head—instead of reflecting the light of God's glory for miles around, to call sinners into the safe haven of God's mercy, such churches leave the night as dark as it was before—or even darker.

So as you are called to worship this morning, allow your heart to be filled with the desire for lighthouses to burn bright, for the glory of your God to shine not just in Antioch, but in every church called by his name. Lord, multiply your church! And let us be part of it...

O Praise The Name (Anástasis)

Confession - Revelation 3:1-2

It's tempting in these days to just toss churches into the compost. We can see them as beyond restoration; and we can see ourselves as never going down like that. But that's not what we see in the New Testament.

The church at Corinth was divided into factions, tolerated sexual immorality, argued over worship style, sued each other, and denied the resurrection. But instead of giving up on them, Paul poured his life into them. The churches of Revelation 2-3 were called out by God for being unloving, heretical, lazy, weak, and lukewarm. But instead of giving up on them, Jesus poured his life into them. He said,

You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Revelation 3:1-2

Let's take a moment to consider the weight of Jesus' words. In what ways have you been throwing people, churches—maybe even yourself—into the compost? Where have you forgotten that God's work isn't finished yet? If the Spirit brings something to mind, confess it to the Father and be restored.

Psalm 126

All I Have Is Christ

Sermon - Luke 8:4-21

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted (Look To Jesus)

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

Announcements & Benediction - Luke 8:15

Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus. You may be seated as we give a few next steps from today's gathering.

- 1) Giving & Visitors - antiochpeople.org/give
- 2) Family Groups - antiochpeople.org/familygroup
- 3) Serving - antiochpeople.org/serve
- 4) Classes - antiochpeople.org/classes

Next Sunday's class, in light of it being the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, will highlight the history and ongoing significance of this movement in church history. (And no, this is not because we are anti-Halloween!)

Our next two months of 9 AM classes will be released later this week.

Diversity Discussion Group - Following today's gathering the diversity discussion group will meet in the training room. This is for anyone interested in helping our church grow in diversity.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and we end with a benediction, which is a reminder that we have been blessed to be a blessing.

Church, thanks to the God who restores, you are those who have heard the word and had it take root in you. Therefore go to the places where the seed has been trampled, withered, choked, and devoured, and may you keep sowing.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let's say this together: We are sent.
