

Sunday Gathering

A Beautiful Church, Acts
3:1-10 - Bradley Bell

January 8, 2023

Membership: #ThrivetheFive

Length
in mins

Audio/
Visual Band Person Vocals

0:00 Call to Worship - Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

In our culture today there is so much pressure on being everything that others want us to be. The same is true for a church. People measure a church by its size and programs and building. So how does Antioch Church measure up? What do we have to offer?

Well if you look at our building or our website or our number of staff, it's easy to see—gold and silver we do not have! But what we do have we give to you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, we give you ourselves. We pursue intentional gospel relationships.

And relationships are actually what we long for most. We're born into the world asking the question, "Who's coming for me?" Well, the beauty of Christianity—unlike anything else in the world—is its truth that someone is coming for us. That God literally came for us in the Person of Jesus Christ. And that he's coming for us again on the day of Jesus' return.

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah, who gave us a foretaste of the day when Jesus will come for us again to restore all things:

1 Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days.
The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses.

2 Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers
and singing and joy!

There the LORD will display his glory,
the splendor of our God.

3 With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands,
and encourage those who have weak knees.

4 Say to those with anxious hearts,
"Be strong, and do not fear,
for your God is coming to destroy your enemies.
He is coming to save you."

Brothers and sisters, we all have anxious hearts. So let's say that together, and say it to one another:

**"Be strong, and do not fear,
for your God is coming to destroy your enemies.
He is coming to save you."**

Isaiah continues,

5 And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind
and unplug the ears of the deaf.

6 The lame will leap like a deer,
and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!

10 Those who have been ransomed by the LORD will return.

They will enter Jerusalem singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.

Sorrow and mourning will disappear,
and they will be filled with joy and gladness.

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

And all because God is coming for us again! If God raised Jesus from the dead, then brothers and sisters, he will do the same for you. Let's sing of it together.

0:00 *Christ Is Risen* [Default Arrangement in E]

0:00 Confession - Psalm 55:17-18, 20-22

It's beautiful that God created us to always be asking the question, "Who's coming for me?" But this is the sad reality in a broken world: we often don't get what we long for most. There are many times where the answer to our question is "no one—no one is coming for me." At other times we answer that someone is indeed coming for us—but we've been hurt by them. In a sinful world, relationships are risky and painful. The closer we get to others, the more likely we are to be hurt.

Thankfully God's word speaks to this, and redirects our longings to him. David writes in Psalm 55,

17 Evening and morning and at noon
I utter my complaint and moan,
and he hears my voice.

18 He redeems my soul in safety
from the battle that I wage,
for many are arrayed against me.

20 My companion stretched out his hand against his friends;
he violated his covenant.

21 His speech was smooth as butter,
yet war was in his heart;
his words were softer than oil,
yet they were drawn swords.

22 Cast your burden on the LORD,
and he will sustain you;
he will never permit
the righteous to be moved.

Psalm 55:17-18, 20-22

Though it may feel safe to pull away from relationships in order to not get hurt, the assurance of God's love can restore our capacity to trust. Not only can we have what we long for most, but we can be a source of it to others. So let's make this our prayer (I'll give you a moment to read it on the screen before we say it together):

**Lord, because you keep coming for me,
I can keep coming for others.
So be it!**

0:00 *He Will Hold Me Fast* [Default Arrangement in G]

0:00 *10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)* [Default Arrangement in E]

Winona-
key of B

0:00 **Evidence of Grace - Tammy and Josiah**

0:00 **Sermon - Acts 3:1-10**

0:00 **Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

0:00 *All I Have Is Yours* [Default Arrangement in C]

0:00 *King Of Kings* [Default Arrangement in D]

0:00 Benediction - Acts 3:19-21

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week in order for us to grow in the context of deep relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us, and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat; the pen is yours to keep.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

1) Membership covenants - Existing members please review and sign them. If you're not an existing member then the next announcement is for you...

2) Membership Class - Next Sunday, January 15 at 9:00 AM. Please sign up. This class is also open to existing members who'd like a better understanding of Antioch.

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

Church, your sins have been blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. Until he again sends the Christ appointed for you, may you go as a foretaste of the coming restoration of all things. Based on Acts 3:19-21

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

WE ARE SENT

0:00

Audio/Visual

Audio

Jason Cox

Slides

Dan Gilliss 

Band

Acoustic Guitar

Aaron Kiefer

Cello

Tim Donaldson 

Vocals

Katie Harrod 