

Sunday Gathering

Beauty and Splendor, Exodus
1:1-22 - Bradley Bell

May 21, 2023

Exodus: Wooded in the
Wilderness

Call to Worship - Colossians 1:15-17

Church, we are still in the season of Eastertide, the fifty days of the historic church calendar following our celebration of Easter. As we consider the risen Lord Jesus Christ, let us draw our attention to one of his great characteristics: omnipotence. This means he is all-powerful. As one liturgist describes him, he is the “weaver of the unseen fabrics of this world”. He created the universe and sustains it, from gravity to ecosystems to you and I, along with each time our lungs fill with oxygen, and each beat of our hearts. He is sovereign over it all. From the beginning to the end, He is the one in control of everything; and that includes him bringing us here together to worship today.

In response, will you read the following with me from Colossians 1:

****He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.
For everything was created by him,
in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities—
all things have been created through him and for him.
He is before all things,
and by him all things hold together.****

Colossians 1:15-17, CSB

Sovereign Lord, come and take control of this gathering!

Grace Alone

Confession - Job 42:1-5, CSB

It is so difficult for us to wrap our heads around God’s perspective if we really consider it. If the Lord is truly in control, what does that mean when stress, illness, or tragedy show up so often in our lives? God tells Isaiah that His thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are not our ways. But wrestling with the meaning of our pain is not wrong.

[Job artwork on screen]

A man named Job experienced life-altering tragedy, and then he approached God with many questions to make sense of his experience. God spoke to him out of a whirlwind to answer him. God does not minimize Job’s experience, but magnifies His own glory by reminding Job of His power over each and every part of the world: stars and storms and seas, every piece of creation, all a part of a larger tapestry that God weaves together. Take a moment and go to the Lord with your questions and doubts, then in a moment we will respond in faith together.

Silence is kept.

****I know that you can do anything
and no plan of yours can be thwarted.****

You asked, “Who is this who conceals my counsel with ignorance?”
Surely I spoke about things I did not understand,
things too wondrous for me to know.
You said, “Listen now, and I will speak.
When I question you, you will inform me.”

****I had heard reports about you,
but now my eyes have seen you.****
Job 42:1-5, CSB

Rock Of Ages

Be Thou My Vision

Congregational Prayer

Sermon - Exodus 1:1-21**Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28*****In Feast Or Fallow******Goodness Of God*****Benediction**

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. We describe them as "intentional environments to be transformed by the gospel through 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.

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) Food Pantry lunch - There is a food pantry lunch and fellowship immediately following the gathering in the training room. This is an opportunity to celebrate what God has been doing and brainstorm about the future.
- 2) Grenada Team Giving - This summer we are sending a team to support the ministry of the Crigler family in Grenada. Jason and Kari were founding members of Antioch—Jason led worship for over ten years and Kari led food pantry. They work in the local church and the neighborhood among the "misreached"—that is, people who are culturally Christian and don't have a true grasp of the gospel. Rather than having a fundraiser for this team, we are asking the church to donate to the team fund. You can do that through GivApp or by check.
- 3) Pentecost Sunday - Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday according to the historic church calendar (the 40th day following Easter in which we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit). In celebration of this, Antioch Academy is providing a doctrinal class "On the Day of Pentecost". It will be at 9 AM in the training room.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and end with a benediction, which is simply a blessing for the road. I invite you to open your hands in a posture of reception:

Church, Jesus has conquered death and is waiting to redeem everything that is broken; therefore, may you go in weakness and rejoicing, telling others of a God who is worthy of our trust and in control when we are not.

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

You are sent.
