

Sunday Gathering

November 19, 2023 - A Word of Grace, 1
Kings 19:1-18 - Bradley Bell

Call to Worship - (Ps. 95:6, Ps. 8:3-4,9)

Good morning, Antioch. my name is Aaron and I am one of the pastors here. We are so glad you are here with us today. As much as we'd like to think otherwise, we often approach our Sunday services focused on ourselves. We want to sing the songs we like; we want to be encouraged by a practical (and entertaining!) sermon that suits our current situation; we want to feel warm and fuzzy and be included in the social life of the church. And while none of these things are bad in themselves, that's not why we're here today. No, we come today as worshippers. We are a part of a family of saints, generations stretching back thousands of years, who gather together to lift our voices to praise the God who created and sustains the universe.

Let's say this together, church:

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!" (Ps. 95:6)

This God – all-powerful, yet infinitely merciful – loves you so much that if you were to grasp even a little bit of it, it would change your life.

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?"
O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:3-4,9)

Let's lift our voices to rejoice to our God.

Rejoice

Confession - Gal. 2:20

There is no escaping God's presence, and therefore, his holiness and goodness. There is also no escaping our sinfulness. From almost the very beginning, human beings have twisted what God has given to us. We have turned His gifts into our gods. Our relationships, our finances, our jobs, our homes, our bodies, our comfort; these are all good things, and yet we elevate them to a place in our hearts and lives that should only be occupied by God himself. Take a few moments to consider what it is that has taken His place in your hearts this week. (Pause)

There is good news for sinners, church: For those who call upon Him, for those who repent, Christ has taken the punishment for your sin. He has died, that you might live. And He rose again, defeating death and granting new life to you, a life empowered by the very Spirit of God.. Though you will still struggle, you no longer have to be enslaved to sin. Say this with me:

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

Let's lay hold of that promise as we sing.

Run To The Father

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Sermon - 1 Kings 19:1-18

Lord Have Mercy

I Will Wait For You (Psalm 130)

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

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) another food pantry is in the books. Yesterday, we served 86 total families (331 individuals) - 84 in-person, plus two deliveries. I found two large bags of potatoes and several bags of carrots hiding in plain sight afterwards, so we were also able to provide produce to our Congolese brothers and sisters. Thanks to everyone who served throughout the month to pull it off.

2) this evening from 6:30-7:30 we will have the opportunity to hear from Brad and Brian Croft about Brad's transition. Brian has been influential both in Brad's life and in the life of Antioch and has been invaluable in guiding us through the past few months. We hope this time will be both clarifying and encouraging as we journey towards what's next. Childcare will be provided, but dinner will not, so please plan accordingly.

3) For parents of Young Disciples, today, November 19th was the last Young Disciples class of the year. Classes will resume in January.

4) We are in need of at least two people to run slides. We will train you. It is a very simple way to serve, but does require commitment.

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

Antioch church, we pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, and that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Let that fullness send you out into a hurting world that wants the drama of the wind, fire and earthquake, but needs to hear the still, small voice of God's grace.

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.
