

Future Generations

A legacy is a tender thing. The past hands us a story, quietly pleading that we will take it, and hold it carefully, and perhaps not look too closely at the cracks and the blemishes. Our heroes silently hope we won't judge too harshly. And maybe we should be careful. After all, what are we but one step in a long journey of human frailty?

David understood this, I think. His legacy included shame and failure along with joy and peace. When David got it wrong, it was really wrong. But when David got it right, God was at the heart of it. David understood the power of God's redeeming love, because David had received it. This allowed him to say with full confidence that people yet unborn would know the deliverance of the Lord.

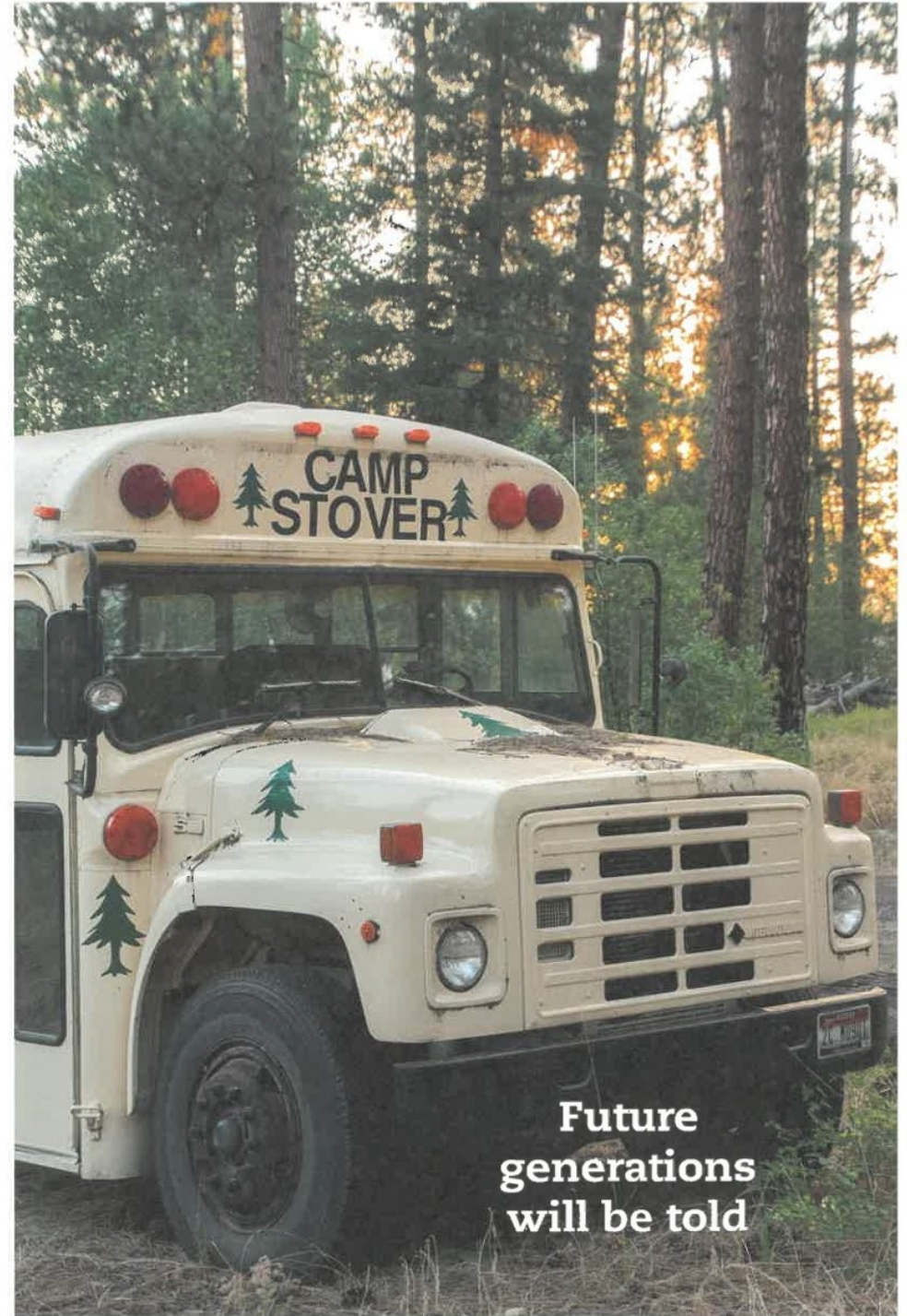
In Psalm 22, David reaches forward to the future, handing this legacy to the generations to come. David anticipates God's providence for the poor, he expects the ends of the earth to turn to the Lord, and all the nations to worship him. David envisions a time when the stories will be told, and retold, each repetition a remembrance of God's goodness. Even the dead will join the living in reverence to the Most High.

Perhaps David knows that his own legacy is more cracks and blemishes, that even a man after God's own heart is still human and frail. David knows a story that is only about David himself is an empty husk of a thing. Left on our own, our legacy will always be tender. But there is a story that future generations will celebrate, a legacy of God's gracious deliverance. God will do what God has done, and those that seek the Lord will find reason to praise.

—John Fillmore
Caldwell, Idaho

"Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it" (Psalm 22:30-31, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.

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Future
generations
will be told

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

April 28, 2024

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Susan Hughes, Worship Leader

PRELUDE "Love" (Whitworth)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus offers a new-old commandment, that we should love each other. With the incredible power and the unfathomable depth of God's love for us we can...we must...love one another.

And it is in this...our love for one another...that the world will know whom and what we worship.

Come, children of God, let us love one another.

***HYMN #12** "Come, let us all unite to sing"
[Verse 1]

Come, let us all unite to sing, God is love. Let heav'n and earth their praises bring, God is love. Let ev'ry soul from sin awake, let ev'ry heart sweet music make, and sing with us for Jesus' sake, for God is love.

[Chorus]

God is love! God is love! Come, let us all unite to sing that God is love.

[Verse 2]

O tell to earth's remotest bound, God is love. In Christ we have redemption found, God is love. His blood has washed our sins away, his Spirit turned our night to day, and now we can rejoice to say that God is love!

[Chorus]

God is love! God is love! Come, let us all unite to sing that God is love.

[Verse 3]

How happy is our portion here, God is love. His promises our spirits cheer, God is love. He is our sun and shield by day, our help, our hope, our strength and stay; he will be with us all the way, our God is love!

[Chorus]

God is love! God is love! Come, let us all unite to sing that God is love.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, send your Spirit among us now. Bind us to you in love this day, that we may worship in unity and friendship. Bind us to you in love this

hour, that we may be strengthened to bring abundant love to your world. In love and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

***HYMN #89** "For the beauty of the earth"
[Verse 1]

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

[Verse 2]

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

[Verse 3]

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

[Verse 4]

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

[Verse 5]

For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above, off'ring up on ev'ry shore her pure sacrifice of love: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Christ reminds us that lovers of God must be lovers of people. And so, we are invited to show our love as we offer ourselves and our gifts to Christ, to Christ's church, and to one another. May we share freely and generously the love and abundance that God has given us.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to or dropping off at the church, or using Paypal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

Offertory "Everlasting Love" (Southbridge)

***Doxology** "Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Generous God, may the gifts we return to you cause your name to be celebrated among the nations. May the lives that we live cause your name to be celebrated in all generations. May our offerings be signs of our praise to you, forever and ever. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.

Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.

An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING ANTHEM “Pass It On” (Kaiser)
Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 4:7-21 (The Message)

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love! This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He's given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit. Also, we've seen for ourselves and continue to state openly that the Father sent his Son as Savior of the world. Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God. We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God. To Love, to Be Loved. God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love. We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved

us first. If anyone boasts, “I love God,” and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.

MESSAGE “This Is Love” Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #592** “Love divine, all loves excelling”

[Verse 1]

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art. Visit us with thy salvation;

enter ev'ry trembling heart.

[Verse 2]

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast. Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be. End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

[Verse 3]

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive. Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing,

glory in thy perfect love.

[Verse 4]

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee. Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

***POSTLUDE** “Come Down, O Love Divine” (Barr)

(Opening Prayer - Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024 (p. 105). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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Directions for Disaster Auction Desserts

Thanks so very much for making desserts for the Disaster Auction!!!

No refrigerated items please!!

Samples of desserts

Cookies—(2-3 per baggy)

Brownies—(1-2 per baggy)

Cupcakes—(2-3 on a small paper plate), put in a baggy for display

Cake—Put in a two gallon Ziploc bag for display

Pie—Put in a one or two gallon Ziploc bag for display

Labeling:

Please label what the dessert is, being specific, such as:

Sample: Chocolate cake with Peanut Butter icing

List all ingredients on a label or small piece of paper and tape it on the dessert. Label if it is sugar-free, or if it could cause an allergy such as nuts, peanut butter, eggs, dairy, etc. Also list your name and put HCOB on it.

Your **name and HCOB** need to be on the label also.

Drop-Off

You may drop off your desserts on Friday, May 3rd by noon, to the table in the West Entrance.

When dropping it off, please fill in the signup sheet with your name, what the dessert is, and how many, and your phone number.

Thanks again for your goodies!!!

If you have any questions, please call Arn Platou.