

Sustain the Weary with a Word

Our second night in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota was scary, confirming reports that summer storms there can be dangerously intense. There were no permanent shelters and no motorized vehicles. We had committed to a wilderness week with what we could carry in on our backs. That long, stormy night, we hunkered down in our lightweight tents, as the driving rain soaked us through.

We emerged from our shelters in the morning, grateful to see another day. We committed to find a new campsite, away from the shady forest and sufficient to catch the drying sun for our saturated supplies. Our stress was accelerated by an ongoing controversy over leadership between a seasoned outdoor guide and the novice organizer who had arranged our trek. Whom should we trust?

Later that day, upon spotting a promising site, we jumped out of our canoes to check it out. There on the shore, spelled out with small rocks, was this message: “God was here!” With a quick rearrangement of rock letters, we declared: “God *is* here!”

The suffering servant of Isaiah 50:4-9 reminds us that God is here to instruct, deliver, and console. Such was his encouragement for those exiled in Babylon, knowing their temple had been destroyed and their lives upended.

This year we have slowly emerged from isolation and loneliness, weary of the pandemic and the changes it has wrought. We’ve also become wary of divisions created by our need to be in control, yet we still hold on to our propensity to define others.

Morning by morning God teaches us to meet adversity and challenge with faithfulness and hope, if we would attune ourselves to God’s instruction.

Merciful God, awaken us to listen to, learn, and live out your way of love each new day.

Hymn

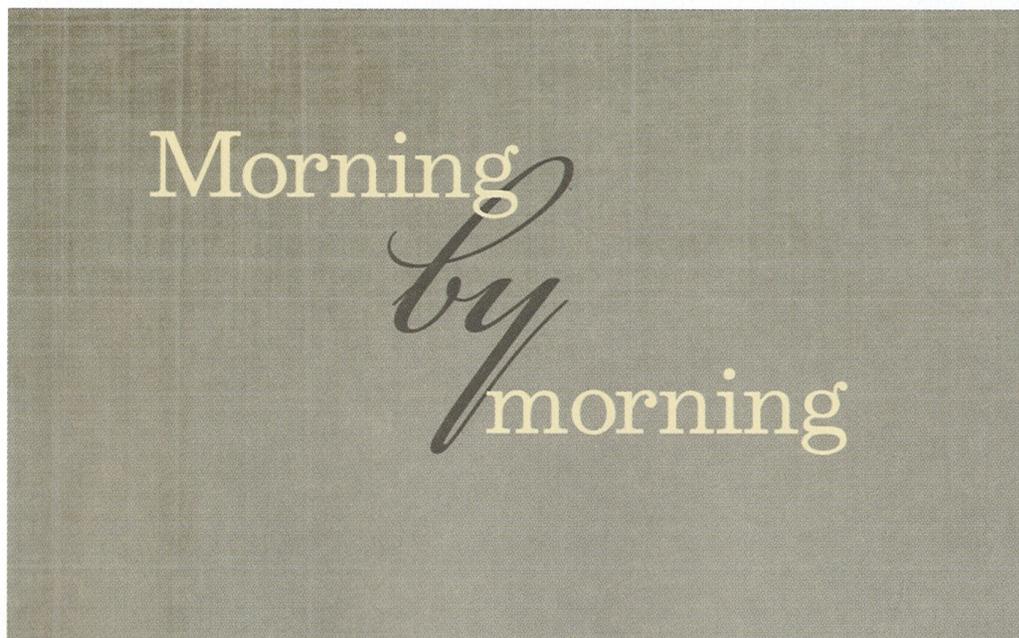
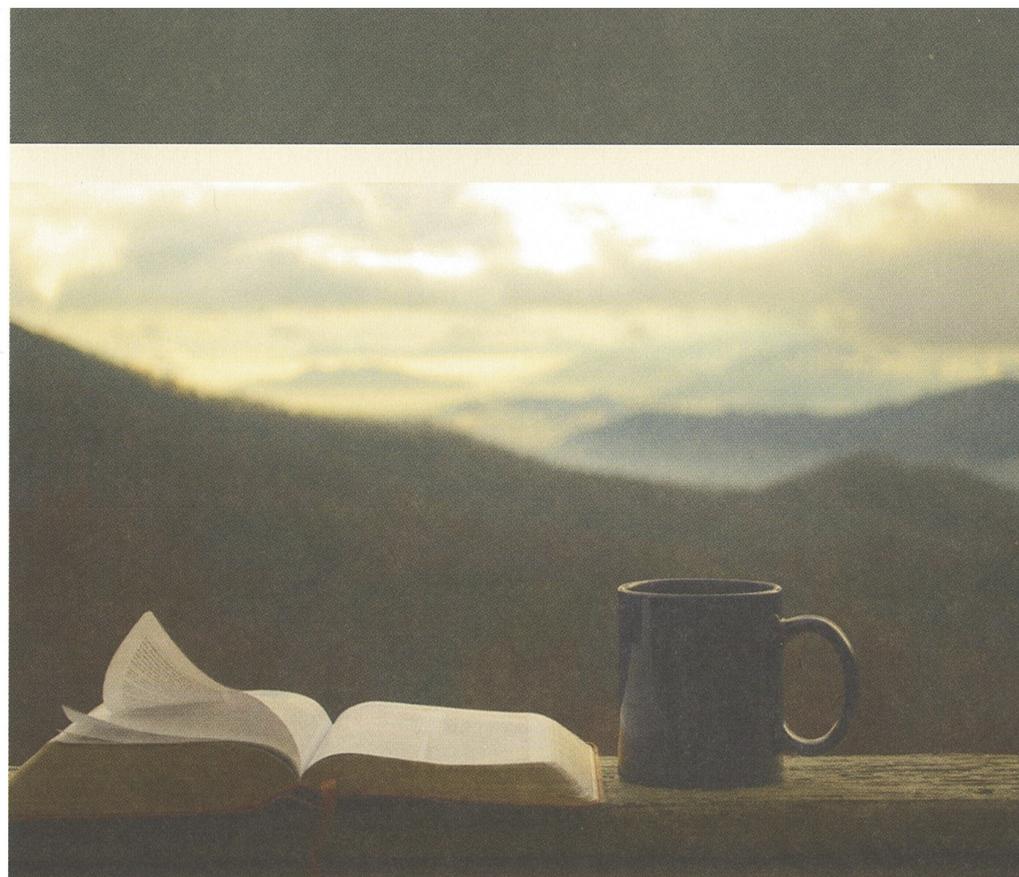
God of the Bible

No. 27, *Sing the Journey*

— Pearl Miller
Warrensburg, Missouri

Text for today: “The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. *Morning by morning* he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward” (Isaiah 50:4-5, *NRSV*). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 50:4-9a (4); Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:00 AM

September 12, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "All Creatures of our God and King" (Kendall)

WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD LAST WEEK?

TEMPLE CHOIR ANTHEM "O Magnify the Lord with Me" (Pethel)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Glenn Young, Worship Leader

One: The heavens shout of God's glory!

**All: There is so much beauty in this earth
and in the heavens!**

One: Day by day we are reminded of God's creative love.

**All: Day by day we are blessed with large and
small visions of God's glory.**

One: Come, let us praise the God of creation.

**All: Let us sing and shout our praises of
thanksgiving and joy to God.**

***HYMN #46** "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

[Verse 1]

*I sing the mighty pow'r of God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.*

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.

The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

[Verse 2]

I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food.

God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.

*Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*

[Verse 3]

*There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes thy glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne.*

*While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
there's not a place where that we can flee but God is present there.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

Lord, we have come this day to hear your words of healing love and hope. Enter our hearts and our spirits and teach us to follow you. Give us courage and strength to be your faithful disciples. AMEN.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

LEADERSHIP TEAM AND MINISTRY TEAMS CONSECRATION

Congregational Response: *We, as brothers and sisters in Christ, affirm you as leaders called to serve in this congregation. We offer to you our cooperation and confidence, our prayers and support, so that both the knowledge and love of God revealed in Jesus Christ may increase among us and in all of God's creation.*

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

We are called to listen to the words of wisdom and to respond with our whole lives. Let us give thanks to God with all that we are and all that we have — in word, thought, and action.

If you have not done so already, you may place your offering in the plate at the front of the chancel during the offertory or after the service. If you are watching on facebook live or the HCOB webpage, we virtually pass the offering plate to you this morning. You can prepare your offering to be mailed or to be dropped off at the church this week; or you can use Paypal on the Hagerstowncob webpage.

Offertory "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (Smith)

***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray. Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us: our very selves. So let us give not only

(continued)

our money to help others, but our hearts, our hands and our time to make a tangible difference in the lives of those not as fortunate as we are. Keep us mindful of all you have given to us, so we might give to others. We give with gratitude through Christ our Lord, who gave us his all. 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

SCRIPTURE READING: James 3:1-12

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Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4 Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8 but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

MESSAGE

“When You Open Your Mouth”

Pastor Twyla Rowe

*HYMN #499

“Lord, speak to me”

[Verse 1]

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone. As thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.

[Verse 2]

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wand’ring and the wao’ring feet. O feed me, Lord, that I may feed thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

[Verse 3]

O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the Rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the trouble sea.

[Verse 4]

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart, and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

[Verse 5]

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o’erflow in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

[Verse 6]

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when and where; until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

*BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

*POSTLUDE

“A Hymn for the Nation”

(Martin)

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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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