

Don't Click Send

"Tweet! Tweet!" says the little birdie on the bulletin cover. But not the kind of tweet that causes problems!

In ye olde days when I became a pastor (in 1979), whenever I wanted to give someone a piece of my mind all I had to do was slip carbon paper between letterhead and a blank piece of paper, smack down hard on the keys of a manual typewriter, sign the top sheet, fold and stuff it in an envelope, address it, stamp it, and walk a couple blocks to a mailbox and release it down the chute. Thanks to that unwieldy process, at any point I could come to my senses and tear up the letter instead.

Nowadays, without time for reflection, social media gives us the opportunity to respond spitefully, immediately, and permanently, damaging others as well as making ourselves look like who we really are! That's why we ought to listen carefully to what scripture says: "When you're angry do not sin. Lie down in bed, take a deep breath, think, and don't click send" (Psalm 4:4 AFT*).

Regardless of what translation you use (and please do look it up in your own Bible), this is good advice for all of us. Take a deep breath—and *pause*—before posting something hurtful.

"The Lord hears when I call..." says that same psalm a verse earlier (which happens to be the verse on today's bulletin cover). Thank heavens the Lord who hears us also knows us well enough to ignore us when we click "pray" too quickly. We can't assume the same for everyone else. So take a deep breath.

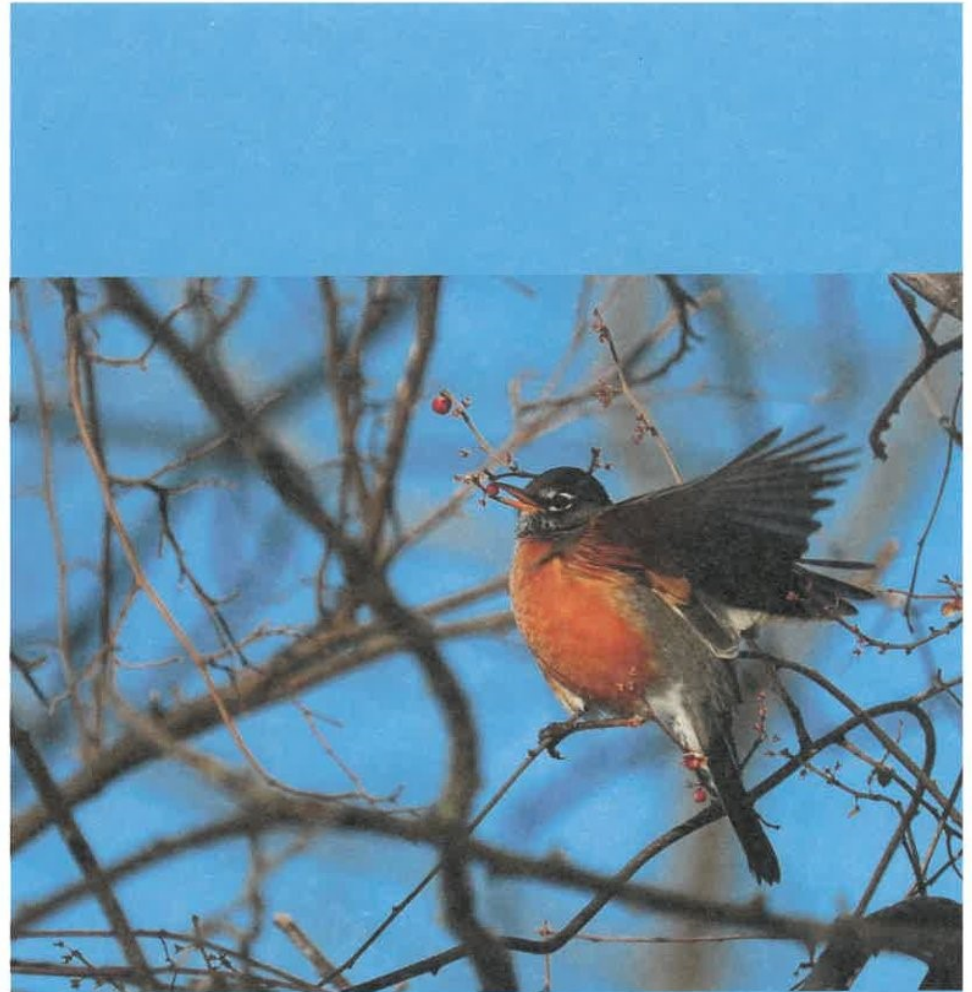
Don't click send.

**Average Frank Translation*

—Frank Ramirez
Nappanee, Indiana

"Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; *the Lord hears when I call* to him" (Psalm 4:3, *NIV*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48.

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THE LORD HEARS
WHEN I CALL

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

April 14, 2024

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Eunice Plank, Worship Leader

PRELUDE "With Joy and Reverence" (Miller)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God has set apart those who are faithful. Our Creator will hear us when we call.

All: God puts gladness in our hearts and minds. We will lie down in safety and sleep in peace.

One: Beloved, we are God's children now. What we will be has not yet been revealed.

All: We are here to remember Jesus Christ. We want to be like the One who lived by love.

One: Our faith strengthens us for each day's living. God empowers our ministries of caring.

All: We trust God whose children we are. We look forward to what God will reveal to us.

***HYMN #114** "In thee is gladness"
[Verse 1]

In thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart!

By thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the true redeemer art!

Our souls thou wakest, our bonds thou breakest, who trusts thee surely hath built securely, and stands forever: Hallelujah!

Our hearts are pining to see thy shining, dying or living to thee are cleaving, naught can us sever: Hallelujah!

[Verse 2]

If he is ours we fear no powers, nor of earth, nor sin, nor death.

He sees and blesses in worst distresses, he can change them with a breath!

Wherefore the story, tell of his glory, with heart and voices all heav'n rejoices in him forever: Hallelujah!

We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness, love thee and praise thee, and still shall raise thee glad hymns forever: Hallelujah!

***OPENING PRAYER**

We thank you, God, for drawing us to this place and time and for interrupting us with your gift of life in Christ. Whether we have heard the news many times over, or are this day listening with brand new ears, surprise us with your justice and righteousness, that our lives might turn in the right direction; startle us with your goodness and mercy, that we might receive your empowering forgiveness; stagger us with your hope and peace, that our eyes will remain wide open as we leave this place, wondering what you will be doing this week in our world and in us. This we pray in the name of your Messiah. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

With gladness in our hearts, we offer our best to God in this act of commitment and sacrifice. We give because repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in the name of Jesus Christ to all nations, beginning where we are. Let us give according to our faith.

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 "I Need Thee" (Southbridge)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. We give with joy, gracious God, for you have been with us even when we were unfaithful. You have kept us in safety through times of grave distress. We can call on you in all times and places, in life and in death, knowing that your strength is available to sustain us. We give now that your church may be empowered in the proclamation of good news and the transformation of human life. 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.

MORNING ANTHEM "Cast Thy Burden Upon The Lord" (Harlan)
Temple Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #538 "Lead me, Lord"
*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness.
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord,
only that makest me dwell in safety. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 4 OT 490

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer. How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? *Selah.* But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah.* Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!" You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

MESSAGE "Greater Joy" Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #577** "O Love that will not let me go"
[Verse 1]
*O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.*
[Verse 2]
*O Light that follows all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter,
fairer be.*
[Verse 3]
*O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.*
[Verse 4]
*O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust, life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.*

***BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.
Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

***POSTLUDE** "Triumphant Gladness!" (Broughton)

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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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