

Visit by an Angel

When an itinerant preacher wandered through the rocky, dusty paths in the mountain village of Morne Boulage in Haiti, bullhorn in hand, sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, one family offered him a chair, not knowing if this stranger was an angel or a crazy person.

This simple, obedient act of hospitality led to the formation of a church several years later. The formation of a church led to home repairs after a hurricane destroyed many homes in the community some years after that. Later, agronomists came to teach soil conservation and animal health. Doctors and nurses began arriving to provide mobile medical clinics. Teams of community development specialists followed and built cisterns, sand bio-filters for drinking water, and latrines. Local midwives received special training, and all mothers of infants in the village were invited to a monthly mothers' club to learn to prepare nutritious meals for their children and to have a nurse weigh and assess the growth of their children.

Hebrews 13:7 says, "Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out." The faithful preacher, who regularly left his home in Port-au-Prince to wander remote villages proclaiming the gospel, did not live to see the transformation of this community. He died suddenly after establishing the church. Children growing up in Morne Boulage today will not know his name, but his love and compassion for brothers and sisters he had not yet met lives on.

When we openly profess the name of Jesus, like the itinerant preacher, and remember to do good and share with others what we have, like the obedient family, our sacrifices will not be in vain, for "God is pleased" (v. 16).

—Jeff Boshart, manager
Global Food Initiative
Church of the Brethren

Text for today: *"Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. . . . Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"* (Heb. 13:1-3, 7-8, CEB). **Bible readings for today:** Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 (1); Luke 14:1, 7-14.

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Keep loving each other



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45AM

August 28, 2022

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Morning Litany" (Smith)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Jack Finniff, Worship Leader

One: With all your strength, sing aloud to the Lord, who has brought you here and blessed you.

All: Our voices shall shout forth praise and thanksgiving to God.

One: With all your heart, reach out in service to those in need, remembering God's mercy in your own life.

All: Our lives shall be witnesses to the love of God which has been lavished upon us.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord with Great joy!

All: Let us bring all that we have and all that we are to God in gratitude.

***HYMN #8** "Brethren, we have met to worship"

[Verse 1]

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.

Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?

All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.

Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

[Verse 2]

Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses' sisters aided him.

Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?

Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.

Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

[Verse 3]

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with tears?

Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?

Brethren, join your cries to help them, sisters, let your prayers abound!

Pray, oh pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.

[Verse 4]

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too.

Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.

Christ will call us home to heaven, at his table we'll sit down.

Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, our helper, we seek the assurance of your presence in this time or worship. We have come to listen and to receive your counsel. Melt our stubborn hearts to remove the barriers that keep us from seeing your glory and doing your will. Challenge all that is worthless and unprofitable in our lives, that we may become worthy imitators of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Through our offering, we extend to the world God's banquet invitation. As we reach out to people who have not known our advantages, we are blessed. Let us not neglect to do good and to share generously what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

You are invited to 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. You can drop your offering off at the church, mail it to the church or use Paypal on the Hagerstowncob webpage to give.

Offertory "He the Banquet Spreads Before Us" (Mansfield)

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

In joyous thanksgiving for the banquet of life, we invite those who live in poverty to share in our wealth. We give up some of our luxuries for the sake of brothers and sisters who lack food and shelter, or medical care. We reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. We dedicate our time and abilities along with these fruits of our labor. Amen.

SERVICE OF MEMBERSHIP FOR EDDIE AND ALICE EDMONDS

Congregation's Response: We welcome you with joy and affection into this household of faith. We pledge to you our help, our prayers, our concern, that we may all increase in the knowledge and love of God. We trust God for strength to follow with you in Christ's way, keeping together the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"His Eyes"
Carol Jones

(Chapman)

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.***PASTORAL PRAYER****HYMN #369***"Lord, whose love in humble service"*

[Verse 1]

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross,
forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed; we, your servants, bring the worship not of
voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift
which you impart.*

[Verse 2]

*Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread. Still the captives
long for freedom, still in grief we mourn our dead. As you, Lord, in deep compassion,
healed the sick and freed the soul, by your Spirit send your power to our world
to make it whole.*

[Verse 3]

*As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth
and greatness dawns up – on our quickened sight, making known the needs and bur-
dens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:1, 7-14

NT 77

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, 9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." 12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite

you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

MESSAGE*"Being Real"*

Pastor Twyla Rowe

HYMN #447"O Jesus, I have promised"*

[Verse 1]

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end.**Be thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend.**I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.*

[Verse 2]

*O let me feel thee near me, the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.**My foes are ever near me, around me and within,
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.*

[Verse 3]

*O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.**O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control,
O speak, and make me listen, thou Guardian of my soul.*

[Verse 4]

*O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.**And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end.**O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.****BENEDICTION***After the Benediction, you may be seated.**Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.***POSTLUDE***"Heaven and Peace Within"*

(Sawyer)

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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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