

Illumined by Truth

It is too easy to become discouraged when reading the news headlines these days. We long with nostalgia for the “better” times of the past and look with faint hope to the future. People with evil intent seem to be getting away with murder—and worse. Bullying wars, hateful attacks, and swindling policies and practices seem to prevail. But above it all remains the promise of Almighty God: “For you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise” (v. 2).

Think of a time you were in a space of total darkness. A cave. A basement at night. Then someone offered the merest hint of light. A match is struck, or a candle is lit, and the room floods with light. In daylight, a candle burns with little notice. Yet in the dark the flame illuminates all.

Compared to the darkness of this world, God’s light is a searing beacon. It shines even now through each believer as we become bearers of hope and truth. But imagine the day when all darkness is swept away and all that remains is the light of God’s righteousness! All wrong put right. All injustice brought to justice. All sin extinguished in righteousness at last! “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face” (1 Cor. 13:12a).

Just as surely as the Son is risen indeed, just as surely as the sun will rise tomorrow, we are promised that righteousness at last will prevail. And by God’s incredible grace, you and I who long for it will be there to see it! Until that day, be encouraged—remember you are an effective light for God in this present darkness.

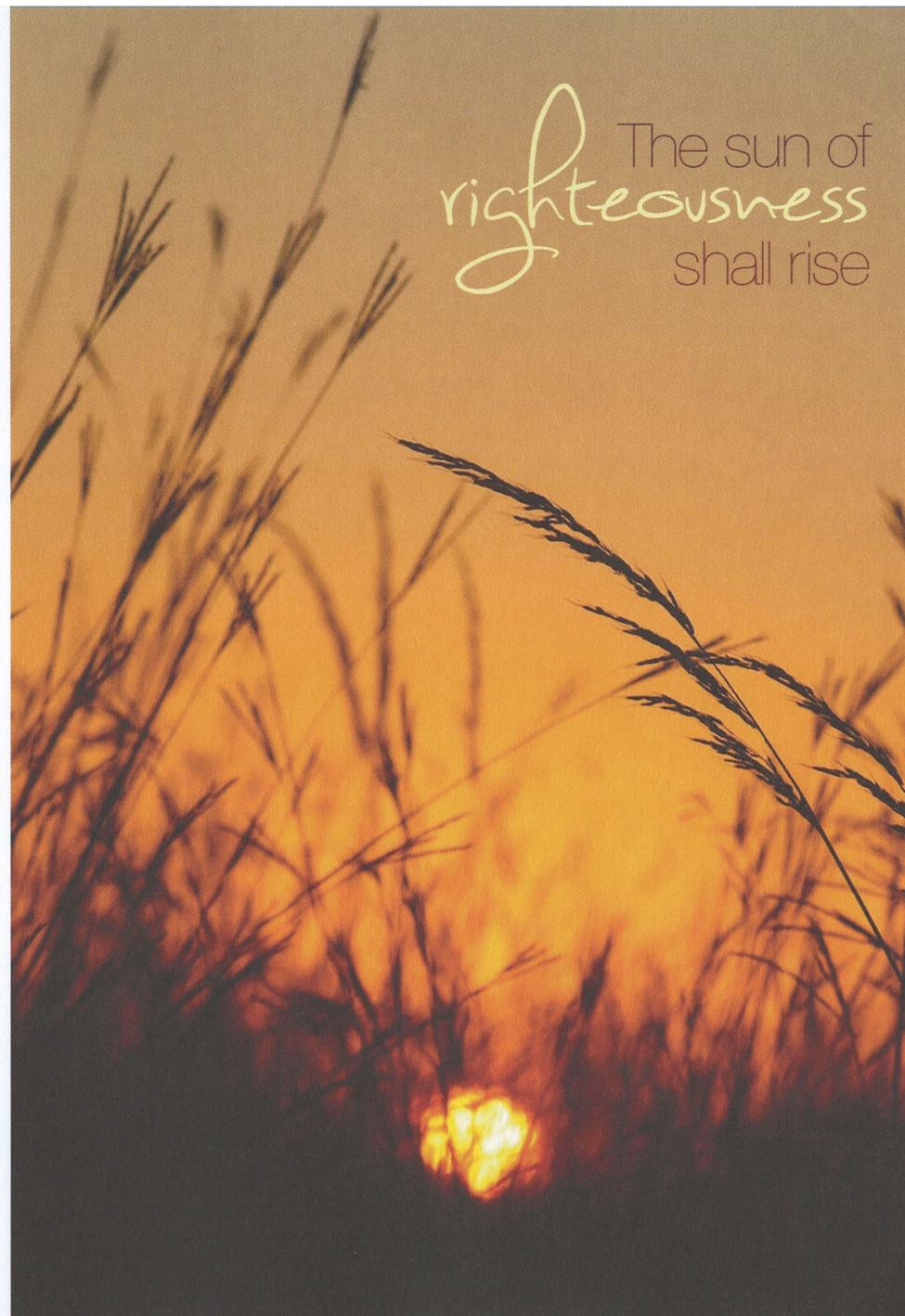
—Mark Bowyer
Hanover, Pennsylvania

Text for today: “See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name *the sun of righteousness shall rise*, with healing in its wings” (Mal. 4:1-2a, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Malachi 4:1-2a (2a); Psalm 98; 2 Thesalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45AM

November 13, 2022

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "My Lord, What a Morning" (Lau)

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Joyfully Sing!" (Berry)
Temple Choir

***OPENING PRAYER** Chris Stockslager, Worship Leader

God of hosts, our strength and our salvation, there are no words large enough to praise you. No response by us can match the love you have shown us. Gather us now in your warm embrace, that our faith may be renewed and our work empowered to the honor and glory of your holy name. Amen.

***HYMN #71** "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"
[Verse 1]

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love. Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

[Verse 2]

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

[Verse 3]

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever bless'd, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine. Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

[Verse 4]

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began. Love divine is reigning o'er us, leading us with mercy's hand. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife. Joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life!

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

We have the opportunity to give thanks through our offering of ourselves and our possessions to the work God calls us to do. We cannot repay God for our lives, our minds, the beauty of the earth and sky, the abundance of resources that we enjoy. But we can respond with acts of gratitude and kindness, with generosity and thanksgiving.

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 "Preserve Me, O God" (Powell)

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We rejoice, O God, in the new world you are creating around us and within us. We give thanks for the joy we find in the church as we draw water from the wells of salvation. It is our intention to share the joy, to proclaim your Word among all nations, to work quietly and enthusiastically for a world where your love reigns. To these ends, we dedicate our offerings. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

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

HYMN #299 "New Earth, heavens new"

[Verse 1]

*New earth, heavens new, Spirit of God moving;
new seed, creatures new, Spirit of life moving;
new man, woman new, image of God moving.*

[Refrain]

*Sing a new song to the One who has said,
"Behold, I make all things new."*

[Verse 2]
New love, mercies new, Spirit of God moving;
new strength, hopefulness new, Spirit of life moving;
new hearts, spirits new, image of God moving.

[Refrain]

[Verse 3]

New minds, wisdom new, Spirit of God moving;
new law, covenant new, Spirit of life moving;
new name, nature new, image of God moving.

[Refrain]

[Verse 4]

New earth, heavens new, Spirit of God moving;
new birth, creatures new, Spirit of life moving;
new men, women new, image of God moving.

[Refrain]

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:5-19

NT 85

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 6 “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” 7 They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” 8 And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. 9 “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” 10 Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; 11 there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. 12 “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13 This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, 15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 You will be hated by all because of my name. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your souls.

MESSAGE

“What Time is It?”

Pastor Twyla Rowe

*HYMN #567

“How firm a foundation”

[Verse 1]

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

[Verse 2]

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid. I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

[Verse 3]

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow, for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

[Verse 4]

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply. The flame shall not hurt thee. I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

[Verse 5]

“The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes. That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

*BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE

“Trust and Obey”

(Staszkeski)

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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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