

ONLINE WORSHIP BULLETIN FOR LIVESTREAM SERVICE OF WORSHIP

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BAKERSFIELD, July 5, 2020, 9:30 AM

Hymn: “America the Beautiful”

Verse 1

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain;
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

Verse 2

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine ev’ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control;
Thy liberty in law!

Verse 3

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine!
Till all success be nobleness
And ev’ry gain divine.

Verse 4

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years;
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee!
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

CCLI Song # 33368 Katharine Lee Bates | Samuel A. Ward
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Pastor’s Greeting and Invocation

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;

He ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the Source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow’r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Announcements and Giving

Scripture Reading: Acts 12:1-18; Colossians 4:2-4

Acts 12:1-18

¹² About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. ² He killed James the brother of John with the sword, ³ and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴ And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. ⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

⁶ Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

¹² When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. ¹³ And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. ¹⁵ They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!" ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

¹⁸ Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter.

Colossians 4:2-4

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Message: "Freedom For Captives"

Pastor Richard Thompson

God _____ at key points in lives and history . . .

Release of the Captives

. . . during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life." Acts 5:19-20

"We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in his name . . ." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men," Acts 5:28-29.

They went out rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. Acts 5:41. They went on teaching.

God made us for _____ - to speak freely of the truth we have and know in Him.

Jesus: The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free. Luke 4:18.

See Isaiah 61:1

So Peter was kept in prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. Acts 12:4

A time of crisis for the church became a time of _____.

The Power of Prayer

God is _____ prayers at this moment.

The house of Mary . . . *where many people had gathered and were praying.* Acts 12:12

Prayer can open doors in situations where we have no _____ . . . but God does.

Prayer opens doors when we do not understand the _____.

God answers prayers in ways we could not have _____ and can only see later.

Prayers for God's _____ to be fulfilled are always answered.

" . . . pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. . ." Colossians 4:2-4

Freedom Is Precious

We are still a free people and free to worship God as He _____.

We have been free to proclaim _____ just like those who emigrated here for religious freedom.

I believe that God has _____ us to be free.

God wants people – regardless of race or language – to know Him through His great grace to us in _____.

God gives life. God gives freedom. God performs miracles. God is good. God is alive.

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me. Revelation 3:20

Prayer of Confession

Praise Song: *"Build My Life"*

Verse 1

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Verse 2

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You

Chorus

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who
You are

And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

CCLI Song # 7070345

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Communion Liturgy

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor continues and concludes with the following words:

Pastor: ... with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your holy
Name and join their unending hymn.

**People: (singing) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might! Heaven and
earth are full of Your glory, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna
in the highest!**

Pastor: ...as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering
for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People: (singing) Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come
again!**

Pastor: All honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and
forever.

People: (singing) Amen, Amen, Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Praise Song: *"He Shall Reign"*

Verse 1

Holy, holy, holy.
Our God is on the throne
So firm is His foundation,
No pow'r can overthrow.

Chorus

And He shall reign forever and ever

Verse 2

One name out lasts the ages,
Through time His truth revealed.
While kings may pass like shadows,
Our God is sov'reign still

Chorus

And He shall reign forever and ever
And He shall reign forever and ever

Bridge

To the Lamb upon the throne.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.
To the Lord forevermore
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
To the Lam upon the throne.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.
To the Lord forevermore
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Verse 3

The day I stand before Him
What praise will fill my soul.
And there behold His glory
And praise Him all the more.

CCLI song # 7134997

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Unison Prayer

We thank You, O God, that through Word and Sacrament, You have given us Your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in Your service that our daily living may show our thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: *"Amazing Grace"*

Verse 1

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

Verse 3

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

Verse 6

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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and John P. Rees

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Benediction

Participating in today's live stream service:

Dr. Richard Thompson, *Pastor*
Andrew Irvin, *Director of Worship and Music*
Beren Canlas, *Worship Leader*

Vocalists: Kathleen Schaffer, Beren Canlas

Instrumentalists: Organ: Rebecca Spickler; Guitar:
Beren Canlas

Scripture: Tanya Agbayani

Tech: Sound: James Dethlefsen; *Live Stream*

Communion Servers: Bonnie Casola, Kurt & Leslie
Koehler, Bonnie Bowles, Greg & Joyce Perrone,
Dusty & Jan Ramey, JoAnne Coston, Marti Ingalls

Camera: Ed French, Lucas Metcalf; *Projection:* Erin
Koehler

Announcements & Information: July 5, 2020

First Experiences Preschool: Our church preschool is open and well into their second summer session, with the third session beginning on July 13. Our preschool will be offering kindergarten beginning with the start of the school year, with redesigned classrooms to meet new health guidelines. If you are interested, or know anyone who is, please contact Sam at 661-395-0225, email at firstpreschool@bak.rr.com, or register on their website: www.firstpreschool.org.

Weekly Prayer Focus, short studies and devotionals will continue to be offered on social media Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Pastor Richard and Andrew. This week, join Pastor Richard live on Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

In-Person Worship: Our sanctuary is open for in-person worship. We are committed to observing health protocols to make this gathering as touch-less as possible in order to protect you! You are welcome to join us at 9:30 on Sundays either on the live stream or in-person. Doors open for in-person worship at 9:15.

RightNow Media: RightNow Media has a wealth of Biblically-based videos to help you as you study the Bible with your small group, in your daily devotion, as well as entertainment for kids! If you would like access to their content, call or email the church office at 661.325.1267/ office@fumcbakersfield.org, we would love to help connect you!

Communication Card: Thank you to all who are filling out the online communication card! It helps us know which of our members are able to join us online and who is not, and gives you an opportunity to communicate with us as well. By **clicking "add additional online attendee"** you can register any human watching with you (husband, wife, children, grandparents, neighbors, etc.) Please register your attendance anytime you view the worship service, especially before the following Tuesday morning when the office staff takes the final count.

Thank you to those who financially support FUMC with tithes and offerings! New donors are always welcome and appreciated! Your generosity allows us to continue to offer ministry to you, like this live stream service. Please give online at: <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/fumcbfl>, or mail it to the church at 4600 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield, CA 93309. Our online giving is secure, and if you give with your debit card, feel free to uncheck the 2.5% finance charge box as that applies only to credit card donations.

Your ministry staff members love and care about you and everyone in our First Church family! Our office is staffed during this time, and hours remain 9 am – 4 pm Monday through Thursday, and 9 am to 1 pm on Fridays.