

ONLINE WORSHIP BULLETIN FOR LIVESTREAM SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BAKERSFIELD, August 2, 2020, 9:30 AM

Hymn: “O God Our Help In Ages Past”

Verse 1

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

Verse 2

Under the shadow of Thy throne,
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Verse 4

A thousand ages, in Thy sight,
Are like an evening gone;
Short at the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

Verse 5

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all who breathe away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

Verse 6

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come;
Be Thou our guide while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719 (ps. 90)

Music: Attr. To William Croft, 1708; harm. By W.H. Monk, 1861

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Invocation

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, The only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in the one holy universal and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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 power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Announcements

Invitation to Give

Praise Song: *“He Shall Reign”*

Verse 1

Holy holy holy
Our God is on the throne
So firm is His foundation
No power can overthrow

Bridge

To the Lamb upon the throne
Hallelujah hallelujah
To the Lord forevermore
Hallelujah hallelujah

Chorus

And He shall reign
Forever and ever

Tag

Hallelujah hallelujah
Hallelujah hallelujah

Verse 2

One name outlasts the ages
Through time His truth revealed
While kings may pass like shadows
Our God is sovereign still

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

Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan

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Prayer of Confession

Scripture Reading: Esther 8-9 (selected verses)

That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, and he took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai.

³ Esther again pleaded with the king, openly weeping and begging him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman, which he had devised against the Jews. ⁴ Then the king extended the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him.

⁵ “If it pleases the king,” she said, “and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king’s provinces. ⁶ For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?”

⁷ King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have hanged him on the gallows he set up. ⁸ Now write another decree in the king’s name on behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king’s signet ring—for no document written in the king’s name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.”

⁹ At once the royal secretaries were summoned—on the twenty-third day of the third month. They wrote out all Mordecai’s orders to the Jews... Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king’s signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king.

¹¹ The king’s edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies. ¹² The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month.

¹⁴ The couriers, riding the royal horses, went out, spurred on by the king’s command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa.

¹⁵ When Mordecai left the king’s presence, he was wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration. ¹⁶ For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor. ¹⁷ In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.

On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them. ² The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. ³ And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king’s administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them. ⁴ Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful.

¹¹ The number of those killed in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king that same day. ¹² The king said to Queen Esther, “The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman in the citadel of Susa.”

¹⁶ Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king’s provinces also assembled to protect themselves and get relief from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder.

²⁰ Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, ²¹ to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar ²² as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

∴ ²⁴ For ... the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast the *pur* (that is, the lot) for their ruin and destruction. ²⁵ But when the plot came to the king's attention, he issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back onto his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on gallows. ²⁶ (Therefore these days were called Purim, from the word *pur*.) ...

²⁹ So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim. ³⁰ And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of Xerxes' kingdom—words of goodwill and assurance— ³¹ to establish these days of Purim at their designated times, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had decreed for them, and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation. ³² Esther's decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, and it was written down in the records.

Message: "REVERSAL OF FORTUNE"

Esther 8-9 | Andrew Irvin, First United Methodist Church | August 2, 2020

REVIEW

The goal of Mordecai's protest was *not* the _____ of the empire or their elaborate systems, but the _____ of an injustice.

THE STRENGTH OF COMMUNITY

1. According to Mordecai's edict, Jews were permitted to _____ and _____.
2. As God's people, it is critically important to be intentional about _____.
3. Three things that fueled the community's courage: _____; seeing its _____ in Mordecai's edict; and realizing that if they stood together, they could _____.

HANGING ON A TREE

In the story of Esther's destiny, guilty men hang on a tree _____. In the story of God's redemption, the Innocent Lamb of God hangs on a tree _____.

Praise Song: “Goodness of God”

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All of my days
I’ve been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I’ve known You as a father
I’ve known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after
It’s running after me
Your goodness is running after
It’s running after me
With my life laid down
I’m surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It’s running after me

CCLI Song # 7117726

Ben Fielding | Brian Johnson | Ed Cash | Jason Ingram | Jenn Johnson

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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.

Unison Prayer

Hymn: "Go Forth For God"

Verse 1

Go forth for God,
Go to the world in peace;
Be of good courage,
Armed with heavenly grace,
In God's good Spirit
Daily to increase,
Till in the kingdom
We see face to face.
Go forth for God,
Go to the world in peace.

Verse 2

Go forth for God,
Go to the world in love;
Strengthen the faint,
Give courage to the weak;
Help the afflicted;
Richly from above

God's love supplies
The grace and power we seek.
Go forth for God,
Go to the world in love.

Verse 4

Go forth for God,
Go to the world in joy,
To serve God's people
Every day and hour,
And serving Christ,
Our every gift employ,
Rejoicing in the
Holy Spirit's power.
Go forth for God,
Go to the world in joy.

Words: John R. Peacey, 1975

Music: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; harm. By C. Winfred Douglas, 1940, alt.

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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*

Scripture: Erin Koehler

Virtual Greeter: Linda Funderburk

Vocalists: Michael Canlas, Sizakele Irvin

Instrumentalists: Organ/Keyboard: Rebecca Spickler; Piano: Dumisani Irvin; Keys: Beren Canlas

Tech: Sound: James Dethlefsen; *Live Stream Camera*: Ed French; *Projection*: Erin Koehler

Announcements & Information: July 26, 2020

FUMC's first **In Person Morning Devotion and Fellowship** will take place at 7:30 AM, Sunday, August 9 in the courtyard area of the rooms 1-9. Pastor Richard will be hosting a short devotional with time to fellowship, socially distanced of course! Please wear a mask, park in the north lot under the solar panels, and enter at the north gate.

First Experiences Preschool is OPEN! Safe, clean and ready for school! For enrollment information, please contact the preschool at 661-395-0225 or visit their website at www.firstpreschool.org.

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 Monday morning when the office staff takes the final count.

Thank you to those who financially support FUMC with tithes and offerings! 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.

SPECIAL OFFERING/PROJECT: If you are able to make a gift over and above your regular giving to FUMC, we encourage you to designate a gift to the **LiveStream Upgrade Project**. Our cameras and controllers, which were top-of-the-line when installed 14 years ago, are in immediate need of replacement. Church Council has approved this, and now we need to fund it. Please prayerfully consider being part of it. Use the giving link above or mail your gift to the church - or drop it off during business hours.

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.