

There's a Psalm for This

This Sunday, we are resuming in-person worship for the first time in months. It's exciting, but it's also going to be different from what we're used to. Even though school is starting and we're meeting in church again, the same pandemic that threw us into a new way of worshiping together is still going on. People are still getting sick; people are still dying. We still need God to change our circumstances for the better, even as we can celebrate something many of us have been looking forward to since we initially went online-only.

Psalm 126 (CEB)

A pilgrimage song.

When the Lord changed Zion's circumstances for the better,
it was like we had been dreaming.
Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter;
our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.
It was even said, at that time, among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them!"
Yes, the Lord has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed.

Lord, change our circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste!
Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.
Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed,
come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!

Psalm 126 both reminds us of the things God has done for us, and focuses us forward on the things God is yet to do for us. Looking back on the past few months it's easy to feel like God has been absent: the pandemic, racial injustice, violence, uncertainty, economic turmoil, and all of it on top of the "normal" things we face has been a lot to handle. If you're anything like me, I feel like I'm constantly on the edge of being unable to function but forcing myself to press on because there's nothing else to do.

One of the things that keeps me going is trusting that God will continue to do great things for us. Did you know that by putting our services online, we roughly doubled the number of people who "attend" our church? The Word of God is reaching more people than it did before, and it's part of why we are continuing with our livestreams even as we return to in-person worship! These are the sorts of things that remind me that God will change our circumstances and bring new life into our world and community.

So while we begin this next journey together, while we celebrate a return to meeting in person in the midst of the chaos of our world; we, like the Psalmist, sit in this tension of rejoicing at what God has done while waiting impatiently for what God is yet to do. It's the tension that seems the norm of 2020, but also is the Christian life – we rejoice that the kingdom of God is here even as we await its fulfillment in the future.

Pastor Mike Galica

Holy Cross Announcements

We are in the **Season after Pentecost**, when we are shaped by the Holy Spirit to learn and grow as followers of Jesus Christ. During this time, the narrative lectionary contains “mini-series” on various topics. This year we have series on the Lord’s Prayer, Job, and 2 Corinthians. Our paraments are green to reflect our growth as disciples of Jesus.

Katie Kihlstadius has started a “**Marco Polo**” **Prayer Group**. If you’d like to join an online group devoted to praying for our churches, communities, and world, reach out to her at 801-675-6279 for more info!

We are planning to resume meeting in-person this **Sunday, September 6**.

Please see the page after the prayer list for more information on the steps we are taking to keep everyone safe and healthy as we resume meeting in-person. We will continue live-streaming our services for the foreseeable future for all those who, for whatever reasons, are unable or unwilling to attend in-person.

Our state and local health departments have maintained the COVID-19 restriction level at “yellow” or “low”. The health department recommends maintaining appropriate (6 ft) distance when outside of the home, wearing face coverings, and continuing to practice good hand-washing and other hygiene measures like avoiding touching your face. High-risk individuals (those over 65 or with underlying medical conditions), have stricter recommendations. For more information visit coronavirus.utah.gov.

If, while we can’t meet together, you want to still give an offering to the church, you can mail it to PO Box 732, Brigham City UT, 84302. The post office box gets checked regularly and your giving will be secure.

Please let me know if you have any updates for our **Prayer List**. Out of concern for people’s privacy, I haven’t been adding specific prayers to our church livestream, but we continue to pray for all those needs and concerns.

Sunday School for children and adults is recessed until the fall.

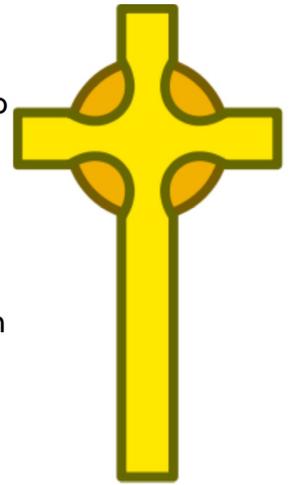
Holy Cross Quilters will resume meeting in the fall.

This Week’s Readings:

14th Sunday after Pentecost – *2 Corinthians: Part 5* – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; John 13:31-35

Next Week’s Readings:

Holy Cross Sunday – *God’s Promises Made Visible* – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Luke 9:18-27



Prayer List

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." — Phil 4:6

Keep the following in your prayers

Pauline, Arnie's sister, for healing from a fractured hip

Debbie, Bob & Jean Quick's daughter-in-law, in the hospital for fluid buildup in her lung cavity.

Claudia Long, Andrea's mom, back in the hospital for health concerns; prayers for Andrea and Bob as well during this stressful time.

Sherri Rackham recovering after a dog bite.

Lisa Weaver, friend of Kosbabs, who is hospitalized and in a coma.

Family and friends of Rae Riser, who passed away.

Chris, Ashley, and family, Jeff Hoedt's son and daughter-in-law, for health and safety during pregnancy.

Doug Anderson, family of Lexa, in the hospital with heart problems.

Gabe Leathum, friend of Pastor Mike's father-in-law, with major health issues.

Jae-Han, Young's brother, with stomach cancer, for protection and comfort for him and his wife.

Terry Pierce, friend of Bob Kosbab, for an unknown ailment.

Our vulnerable populations, especially those with underlying health conditions, the homeless, and those lacking access to proper medical care in this time.

Nora Greer, for healing.

Trudee Klein, friend of Deborah Kay, for healing from cancer.

Tom & Jeanette Croft, friend of Kosbabs, for healing.

Abby Rasmussen and family, friends of Kosbabs, as she struggles with cystic fibrosis.

John Buist, our custodian, for continued health problems.

Lynne, Robert Quick's wife, with health issues.

Aleasa, Robert Quick's daughter, with health issues.

Mark Sparkman, Quick's son-in-law, recurring health problems.

Gloria Perry, for healing from health problems.

Box Elder County Jail Ministry, that the inmates may respond to the Gospel.

Deborah Kay Hansen, prayers for healing from recurring health problems.

Give thanks to God

Keep those in prayer who are in harm's way

Medical professionals and all who are continuing to work during this pandemic.

Braxton Jeppsen, serving in the US Navy.

Let Pastor Mike know if there are any petitions you wish to add to our Prayer List. If you added someone to the prayer list, please update us on how they are doing! We love to celebrate praises as well as petitions.

HCLC In-Person Worship Plan

Current as of August 26, 2020

With the goal of returning to meeting together in a safe, responsible way, creating opportunities for people to attend Holy Cross Lutheran in-person while limiting risk of contracting COVID-19; and out of a love for God and our neighbor (expressed in Luke 10:27) expressed, in part, through recognizing that different people will have different levels of comfort, and respecting each other's personal boundaries especially when they differ from our own (Galatians 5:13-15, Romans 14:13-19); the church council has decided to resume meeting in-person beginning on September 6.

As part of this decision, we wanted to have a plan in place to try to avoid the surprises we had in late May, when we had taken steps to meet in person only to, at the last minute, reverse those plans. We will be following the lead of the Box Elder School District in this regard: if BESD goes back to online-only instruction, we will also go back to online-only worship.

Here's is a description of what in-person worship will be like when we resume September 6:

- No coffee or refreshments provided.
- Discouraging visiting in the narthex and fellowship hall to maintain social distancing.
- Encouraging those who want to visit with each other to visit outdoors.
- Requiring wearing a mask, bandana, or other face covering.
- Providing hand sanitizer at the entrance to the church.
- No sharing of the peace, passing the offering plate, or gathering at the altar rail for Holy Communion.
- Individually prepared Communion cups for Communion.
- Limiting capacity to maintain social distance (roughly 8 households)
- If someone isn't feeling well, especially if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please worship with us online.
- If someone is at high risk for complications of COVID-19, or is medically incapable of mask-wearing or following the other guidelines, please continue to worship with us online.

We will continue to monitor the pandemic situation, especially the response of the School District per our church council's decision. Keep an eye on the church website or Facebook page for updates. There's also a good chance some of the details of how we are meeting together will change; please be flexible as we all figure out together how we will move forward.

Please do remember that as we are resuming in-person worship, our online live-streams will continue. We have been gathering online for quite some time, and because we are still in extraordinary times, joining together for worship online is just as valid as joining together for worship in-person.

For more information on COVID-19, visit the Utah Health Department (coronavirus.utah.gov) or the Bear River Health Department (brhd.org/coronavirus/)

-Pastor Mike

