

There's a Psalm for This

We're just about to the end of 2020, and it has been quite the year. I think this time a year ago none of us had any idea what we were going to face – changes in every area of our lives, loss, pain; it's been quite a lot. Now, 2021 is right around the corner, and we don't know what the year will bring. Usually I feel hopeful around the new year, but I have a lot of mixed feelings this time around. There's some hope, but at the same time, everything I'm planning or helping plan for the next year I'm also having to plan to not have happen, because that's what the experience of 2020 was.

So with all these mixed feelings in my own head, I thought of Psalm 1 and figured, why not start 2021 off here, where the whole of the Psalter begins, contrasting the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked.

Psalm 1 (CEB)

The truly happy person
 doesn't follow wicked advice,
 doesn't stand on the road of sinners,
 and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.
Instead of doing those things,
 these persons love the Lord's Instruction,
 and they recite God's Instruction day and night!
They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,
 which bears fruit at just the right time
 and whose leaves don't fade.
 Whatever they do succeeds.

That's not true for the wicked!
 They are like dust that the wind blows away.
And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice—
 neither will sinners
 in the assembly of the righteous.
The Lord is intimately acquainted
 with the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

This Psalm reminds us that, in the midst of all the voices that surround us; whether social media, newspapers, TV, radio, friends, and so many more; our focus shouldn't be on those voices but on the voice of God. Though the Psalm uses the language of the Lord's "Instruction", it seeks to guide us to seek out God's Word through Scripture to find our right path.

As we move ahead into a new year, let's seek to be like the righteous ones who focus on the Word of God instead of all the other voices competing for our attention. It probably won't change what the year brings, but it will change our perspective on the year, and give us the reminders we need of how God looks out for us even when we face uncertainty.

Pastor Mike Galica

Holy Cross Announcements

We are in the **Season of Christmas**, a whirlwind time of feasts as we quickly follow the growth of Jesus from an infant on Christmas, through getting lost in the Temple at 12, to the adult who teaches and heals and dies and rises again. Our paraments are white in celebration of our Lord and Savior.



Because of our county's "High" Transmission Level, **we will be meeting online-only until that Transmission Level changes**. We feel this is our best path forward to show love to all our neighbors, especially as our hospitals and medical works are overwhelmed.

Our state and local health departments' COVID-19 Transmission Level for our county is "High". This means social gatherings are limited and mask-wearing is required in public spaces. This is in addition to all the regular recommendations of practicing physical distancing, good hygiene practices, and staying home when sick. For more information visit coronavirus.utah.gov.

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!

In lieu of collecting coats, **Box Elder Interfaith Council** is collecting money to purchase new coats during spring sales to donate to schools in the fall. If you'd like to donate to the coat drive, send it to the church marked "Interfaith Council Coat Drive".

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to distribute! Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 to find out if you are eligible.

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.

Sunday School for children is recessed. Adult Sunday is posted to YouTube on Sunday mornings.

Holy Cross Quilters will continue refraining from meeting.

This Week's Readings:

Presentation of Jesus Christ – *Simeon and Anna* – Psalm 131; Luke 2:21-38

Next Week's Readings:

Epiphany Sunday – *Boy in the Temple* – Psalm 2; Luke 2:41-52

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

Brittany, friend of Pastor Mike, has COVID-19. Prayers for a quick recovery for her and that the rest of her family does not get infected as well.

Family & Friends of Ty Jordan, a University of Utah football player, who passed away.

Robert Quick, for healing from ulcers.

Ryan, Kendra, and family, friends of Lexa. Prayers for comfort and peace after **Brooks** passed away.

Bobby Morstadt, for healing from severe acid reflux.

Jeff & Darlene Hoedt, for safe travels and for staying healthy over the holiday.

Mary, daughter-in-law of Pastor Mike's friends, prayers for healing.

Lisa Weaver, friend of Kosbabs, is home but still has a long recovery ahead.

Sherri Rackham recovering after a dog bite.

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

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

Elias, Pastor Mike's friend's son, is doing much better!

Bryce and Emily Herman and newborn daughter, nephew & family of the Kosbabs, have recovered well.

Claudia Long, Andrea's mom, is doing much better but still needs prayer for strength and health.

Tripp, newborn son of Lexa and Kyler, is off oxygen and doing much better.

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. Out of concern for people's privacy, we haven't been adding specific prayers to our church live-stream, but we continue to pray for all those needs and concerns.