

## There's a Psalm for This

It feels like Christmas is just around the corner (probably because it is)! We've got packages mailed, and most of our preparation is done. Even the decorations of the church have been coming up, which I know you've been noticing! It is almost time for Jesus' birth and the Day of the Lord, when we rejoice at the birth of our Savior.

### Psalm 96 (CEB)

Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Sing to the Lord! Bless his name! Share the news of his saving work every single day!  
Declare God's glory among the nations; declare his wondrous works among all people  
because the Lord is great and so worthy of praise.  
He is awesome beyond all other gods  
because all the gods of the nations are just idols,  
but it is the Lord who created heaven!  
Greatness and grandeur are in front of him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Give to the Lord, all families of the nations—give to the Lord glory and power!  
Give to the Lord the glory due his name! Bring gifts! Enter his courtyards!  
Bow down to the Lord in his holy splendor! Tremble before him, all the earth!

Tell the nations, "The Lord rules!  
Yes, he set the world firmly in place; it won't be shaken.  
He will judge all people fairly."  
Let heaven celebrate! Let the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it roar!  
Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate!  
Then all the trees of the forest too will shout out joyfully  
before the Lord because he is coming!  
He is coming to establish justice on the earth!  
He will establish justice in the world rightly.  
He will establish justice among all people fairly.

Psalm 96 is one of the readings on Christmas Eve this year, and it speaks of a coming king, whom we already know, who will make things right. He is worthy of our praise, and he will rule with justice for all people. But then the coming king shows up, and he's born among animals. He shows up and the only people giving glory to his name are some shepherds.

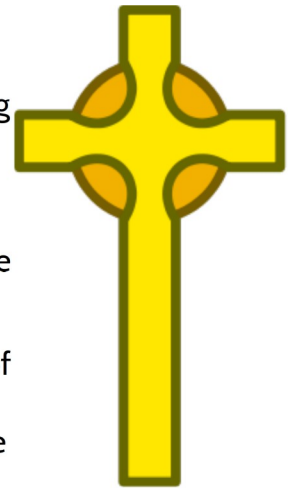
That's the unique thing about this king: everything Psalm 96 says about Jesus is true, but it's also not how we expect. We have a king who set aside all that glory to become a human. Who put aside even divinity for a time to live among us and die for us. He rules now precisely because Jesus gave those things up. And that's why he deserves to rule.

That is our king: the one who will rule perfectly yet also put it aside to become the opposite of a king: a poor peasant craftsman living in the boonies of ancient Israel. And that's why we celebrate Christmas, not because of Jesus' glory, but because of his humility that we are called to emulate.

Pastor Mike Galica

## Holy Cross Announcements

We are now in the **Season of Advent**, a time which reflects our symbolic waiting for the birth of Jesus in humility at Christmas but also our waiting for the return of Jesus in glory. This Advent seems particularly pertinent, as we also wait for the end of the ongoing pandemic. During this season we wait in hope for all these things. Our paraments are purple to remind us of the hope that sustains us.



Even as we continue to worship together apart, we're still celebrating the birth of Jesus. Our **Christmas Eve Worship** will be live-streamed December 24 at 7 PM to YouTube and on the church website. Please join us as we rejoice at the incarnation of the Savior of the world.

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".

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](https://coronavirus.utah.gov).

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to distribute! Visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://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:**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – *Jesus' Birth Announced* – Psalm 113; Luke 1:26-56

### **Next Week's Readings:**

Christmas Eve – *Birth of Jesus* – Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-20

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas – *A Service of Lessons and Carols*

## 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

**Bryce and Emily Herman and newborn daughter**, nephew & family of the Kosbabs, who all have COVID-19.

**Robert Quick**, for healing from ulcers.

**Jared**, Robert Quick's son, for healing from COVID-19.

**Family and friends of Sheryl**, Walter Quick's sister-in-law, who passed away last week.

**Family and friends of Hayden Eccles**, a friend of Andrea's, who passed away.

**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.

**Elias**, Pastor Mike's friend's son, is in the hospital. Prayers for wisdom for doctors and healing for him.

**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

**Pastor Neil Arnold & Noah**, are recovering well but still have some lingering effects.

**Bob Morstadt**, is doing well after his surgery but still would like prayers as he continues to recover.

**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.*