

FCBC Fresno September 13th, 2020



In Praise & Worship

Announcements & Call to Worship

”Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Unraveled

”Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Special Music from Jill Prince

“Testing”

Rev. Danny Jack

“Revive Us Again”

Benediction



This is the last Sunday of our unraveled series. When I started four months ago, I wanted a visual representation of our prayers during this time of pandemic and I pictured a wheel of prayers. A circle that reminded us that as a church family we literally and spiritually weave our joys, fears, anxieties and hopes into worship, confession, and affirmation.

Over the hours, days, and months we have lifted those who have lost loved ones. A mother, father, a friend in Christ. One family lost a son. Some of you have been alone physically but have benefited from our online worship discovering that we have each other even though socially distanced. Others of you have been in the hospital preparing for surgery. Some have received devastating news. We have prayed for our new mothers, the children struggling with a different way of doing school and parents that are working and teaching. We have asked God to care for them, encircle them and make sure they know we love them, and that God is watching over all their comings and goings.

We have bowed our heads and prayed for some of you facing lifestyle changes and one who is going into rehab. I officiated at a wedding and prayed for the couple's life together in this chaotic time. We have lifted our brothers and sisters in China, Myanmar, and Thailand. The work must go on so others can have the peace of Christ. We have cried and shouted with joy. As a congregation we have woven Christ's love into a circle of prayer.

Thank you for joining with me these past twelve weeks. May God continue to bless this fellowship as God weaves our lives together through and in His Son Jesus Christ!

Join with me one last time as we worship, pause for confession, and again affirm the Savior's love for us.

Call to Worship: A Mother's Love/ Exodus 1:22; 2:1-10

Pastor: When you dream, what do you dream?

All: We dream of children who know love especially during the difficult days. We dream of rest and sunny days. We dream of a life that looks normal once more.

Pastor: When you dream, what do you dream of?

All: We dream of peace.

Pastor: When you dream, what do you dream of?

All: We dream of a time when there is no more crying, no more isolation, no more tears. We dream of an end to suffering. We dream of the Church serving all God's people.

Pastor: Family of God, this morning we dream together. This morning we worship together. For there is nothing in heaven or on earth strong enough to unravel God's dream for us. Let us worship our God. Amen.

Confession

Gracious God, we do not know the plans you have for us. We do not know when this virus will end. So, we place our lives, our families, our children into your hands. Forgive us for the moments when we refuse to trust you. Strengthen us so that when life unravels, we are strong enough to turn to you. That is our prayer and confession of faith. Amen.

Testing

“. . . when tests and challenges come at you from all sides, know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors.” James 1:2-3 (Mes)

“God looks down from heaven on the whole human race to test and see who is acting with understanding and truly seeking Him.” Psalm 53:2

YOUR FAITH IS BEING TESTED THESE DAYS

BY...Viral Infirmity, (Covid-19), Social Instability (Violence in Cities), Financial Insecurity (Shaky Economy/Out of Work), Racial Inequality, and Political Incivility (Bitterness & Blaming).

“King Uzziah had a contagious skin disease for the rest of his life and had to live in quarantine. He was not permitted to set foot in the Temple of God. So his son, Jotham, managed the royal palace and governed the nation.” 2 Chronicles 26:21 (Mes)

“My friends and companions must keep their distance because of my plague. Even my relatives must stay far away.” Psalm 38:11 (ESV)

WHEN DO PLAGUES HAPPEN IN THE BIBLE?

3 (of many) Reasons

1. WHEN WE _____
“The people soon forgot God and what he’d done for them, and they wouldn’t wait for God’s plan. Instead, they became greedy and they let their cravings run wild. They tested God’s patience. So God gave them what they wanted, BUT he sent a plague along with it.” Psalm 106:13-15 (NLT)

2. WHEN WE _____
God: “A short time ago, you repented and did what was right. You freed your countrymen who had been slaves. You even made a covenant with me about this in my Temple. But now you’ve changed your mind and dishonored me. You’ve enslaved them again in a new slavery. Therefore, here’s what I’m going to do: Since you’ve disobeyed me by not giving freedom to ALL of your countrymen, I’m going to give you some ‘freedom’ – freedom to die by a war or a plague or famine! And you’ll be considered a disgrace by the other nations of the world.” Jeremiah 34:15-17

3. WHEN _____

“David prayed to God, ‘Was it not I who ordered this? I’m the one who has sinned and done wrong! These people are innocent. What have they done? So, O Lord my God, let your hand fall upon me and my family, but do not let this plague remain on your people.’” 1 Chronicles 21:17 (NIV)

WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING DURING OUR PLAGUE?

1. CONTINUE TO _____

“David built an altar to the Lord there and he gave offerings of worship to God. And the Lord answered his prayer, and the plague was stopped.” 2 Samuel 24:25 (NLT)

2. CONTINUE TO _____

“Aaron the priest stood between the living and the dead until the plague was stopped.” Numbers 16:48 (NLT)

WHEN WILL WE BE ABLE TO WORSHIP TOGETHER AGAIN OR WHY ARE WE BEING SO PATIENT?

1. _____ since March

2. This is a _____

3. Will not _____ with our members’ lives

4. WE ARE NOT CLOSED!



SEEING GOD'S PROVISION

Azael Lucas is one of our students in sixth grade. He lives in a wood and bamboo house with no running or drinking water, nor does it have electricity. Azael sleeps on a mat on the dirt floor. He is a student who, despite his poverty, is very dedicated and always wants to get good grades. One day, after he'd missed the tutoring program, I asked him why. He replied, "My shoes fell apart." His school requires a uniform and shoes—without shoes, he is unable to attend the school. My economic situation was not very good, but I said, "This afternoon we will buy you shoes." We went to town and, as we walked down the street, a person touched me on the shoulder. I turned around and saw a man I knew. He said, "Missionary, I want to give you this \$20 to use for something that your students need." I looked at Azael and said, "God just provided you with shoes." We told the man that Azael needed new school shoes, and that his donation would be used at just that moment. I think that miraculous gesture strengthened Azael's faith.

Ingrid Roldán-Román | *IM Global Servant for Discipleship, Education, Health & Wellness*

Ingrid works with the social extension of the Centro Teológico Bautista del Caribe Panameño (Baptist Theological Center of the Panamanian Caribbean) in the community of Changuinola, Bocas del Toro, Panamá. She directs a program in her home to tutor and feed elementary and high school students, many of whom come from a nearby slum. She works with the students and their relatives in evangelism, social development, and pastoral care.

JOIN US IN PRAYING

- For the School Tutoring Program and its students.
- For new missionaries to the area after Ingrid retires this December.

JOIN US BY GIVING to the World Mission Offering through your church or online at www.worldmissionoffering.org. Thank you!

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