

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right. Max Lucado
- God is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. This is our hope for becoming better men and women. This is our mandate for seeking to make a better world. Martin Luther King, Jr.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: There is something deeper than trouble.

All: It is hope.

One: God's amazing grace;

All: Carrying, lifting, holding us in all seasons.

One: There is something more powerful than despair.

All: It is hope.

One: God's amazing love;

All: Seeing us through dark nights, waves of sadness, mountains of grief.

One: There is something longer lasting than pain.

All: It is hope.

One: God's healing touch;

All: Bringing us hope, leading us to joy, taking us to unexpected places.

SONG: Hope is Our Anchor (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

Interrupt us, O God, disturb our set patterns and rigid responses. Shake us loose from thinking we know the only way. Free us from opinions that are held in tight grips, from holier-than-thou attitudes. Teach us the art of looking at the world new and fresh, ready to be surprised by joy,

astonished by grace, overcome with gratitude; keep us reasonably humble so we may see the new thing that you are doing.

Give us hope Lord. Open us to your word, your touch, your Spirit. Help us see you at work, even in the interruptions of life. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

SONG: The River

THE LESSONS:

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

MESSAGE: "Do You Hope For or Hope In?"

MESSAGE RESPONSE: What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT

THE SENDING SONG: May the God of Hope Go With Us (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



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TRUST, GUIDANCE

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

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Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



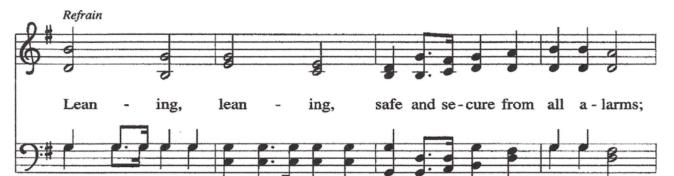
- 1 What a fel low-ship, what a joy di vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



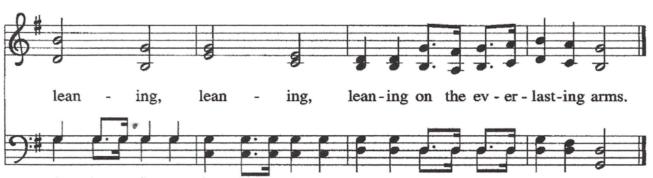


what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.





Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

May the God of Hope Go with Us

