

THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD NEVER CEASES,
HIS MERCIES NEVER COME TO AN END;
THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING,
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 (RSV)



Bellflower UMC

October 23, 2022

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER²

Good and gracious God, you promise to pour out your Spirit upon us; **you are the hope of the world.**

Give us strength, that we might serve you; **make us humble, that we might live for your glory alone.**

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

63. Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!

Blessed be the name of the Lord! (2x)

CALL TO WORSHIP

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;

**you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.**

By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

**Those who live at earth's farthest bounds
are awed by your signs;**

**You make the gateways
of the morning and the evening
shout for joy.**

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

HYMN

526. What a Friend We Have in Jesus

PSALM

Psalms 65 (UMH 789)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - #895

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 18:9-14

SERMON

HYMN

A Pharisee Was Praying

CONFESSION & PARDON

Even before we admit our sin, God promises to hear us
with mercy. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved.

**No words can express the depth of our need or reveal
the extent of our sin.**

But you know us completely, O God.

**When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.**

You rescue us from evil and clothe us with love.

Humbly, we thank you;

**for no words can express our gratitude
for the gift of your salvation. Amen.**

[Water is poured into the font, visibly and audibly.]

Sisters and brothers, the news is so good we can scarcely
believe it: God does not hold our sin against us but pours
out abundant grace.

Give thanks to God and by the Spirit's power share the
gospel far and near:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

OFFERING & PEACE

DOXOLOGY 

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks

for this holy mystery

in which you have given yourself to us.

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CHARGE & BLESSING

Have courage;
keep the faith;
rely on the strength that comes from God.
May the Creator nurture you,
the Teacher walk with you,
and the Spirit strengthen you,
this day and forevermore.

POSTLUDE 🎵🎵

Go Now In Peace

Questions for Reflection

The author of Second Timothy declares, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (4:7). What does that look like in your life? How does your church keep the faith, even in the face of all the world’s challenges?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of light, thank you for another day.

With each hour, may I be watchful for signs of your grace, ready to show your love, and eager to tell the good news of Jesus Christ. Make me more faithful than I was yesterday, and lead me in the paths of righteousness. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you for the challenges and blessings of this day, O God.

If I kept faith with you, thank you for your Spirit's help.

If I looked away from you, turn me back around.


As night falls, I relinquish my pride and my fear


and entrust all whom I love to your care,


with prayers for a peaceful rest;

in Jesus' name. Amen.

Next Sunday:

 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144

 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

 Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet; Amazing Grace

Bellflower UMC spreads God's love within our church family and throughout our communities and world using our prayers, our gifts and our service; thus to become a shelter of love and a community of compassion..

To learn more, visit facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (309-722-1500, pastor@bellflower-umc.org).