



Burlington

Baptist Church

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Sunday, August 27, 2023

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Welcome to Burlington Baptist Church today!

* You are invited to stand.

WE APPROACH GOD

Spirit of Life,
we thank you for the long days of summer:
for bright mornings and walks along the waterfront;
for daisies and ball games and swimming at the beach;
for picnics and vacations and visits with family and friends.
Loving God, we come here, to church, to worship you,
but remind us that you are always with us:
in the warmth of your love; in the light of your life;
in the length of our days.
For this day, and the beauty of all your gifts, we thank you.
Amen.

Prelude

"Imagine" (Lennon/Ono)

Larry

"I Believe" (Stillman, Drake, Graham, Shirl)

"What a Wonderful World" (Thiele, Weiss)

Welcome and Announcements

Dave

Prayer and Preparation

WE PRAISE GOD

Invitation to Worship

* Hymn of Praise "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" 12 - GG

1. *Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*
2. *Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might,
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

3. *To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*
4. *Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.*

* Prayer of Approach

Responsive Reading "Holy Ground" by Ann Weems.

LEADER: The ground... the ordinary, always present,
hardly-in-danger-of-extinction ground...
and God called it holy!

PEOPLE: I know that Moses took off his shoes because
God told him he was standing on holy ground.
What I don't know is, when is the ground holy,
and when is it not? When do *I* take off *my* shoes?

LEADER: I walk upon the frozen ground in winter,
and find it cracked and ugly, lacking colour.
There's nothing here to make me stop and say,
"Holy ground," yet I know that underneath
spring is growing, and in the months to come
I'll be stopped dead in my tracks by crocus and tulip
and daffodil, and in the morning's light I'll see a blaze
of forsythia and a triumph of pink dogwood
and I'll have a whiff of lemon thyme,
and I'll take off my shoes.

PEOPLE: When is the ground holy,
this ground that yields to us Life?

LEADER: If the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
no amount of planting or tilling or harvesting
is going to mean that the bounty is ours.

PEOPLE: We can't earn it; everything is a gift.
And the gifts are not unique:
they're everywhere... commonplace... ordinary:
ordinary trees, ordinary vegetables, ordinary fruits,
ordinary flowers... ordinary, extravagant gifts.

LEADER: Just in case, I'll take off my shoes from time to time,
and say,

ALL: "Thank you!" and "Amen."

A Gift of Song "Imagine Love" (S. & L. Allen)

Sunday Morning Friends

WE GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD

Prayers of the People of God

Offering Invitation

* Offering Hymn "For All That Is Our Life"
(Words: Bruce Findlow / Music: Patrick L. Rickey)

1. *For all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise;
for all life is a gift which we are called to use
to serve the common good... and make our own days glad.*
2. *For needs which others serve, for services we give,
for work and its rewards, for hours of rest and love;
we come with praise and thanks... for all that is our life.*
3. *For sorrow we must bear, for failures, pain, and loss,
for each new thing we learn, for fearful hours that pass:
we come with praise and thanks... for all that is our life.*
4. *For all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise;
for all life is a gift which we are called to use
to serve the common good... and make our own days glad.*

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Scriptures

Marjorie

Gospel Lesson: Mark 4: 30 - 34

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 3: 14 - 21

Sermon: *“Use a Little Imagination”*

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*When true simplicity is gained
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
to turn, turn, will be our delight
till by turning, turning we come round right.*

GOD SENDS US FORTH

* Hymn of Response

“Be Thou My Vision”

450 - GG

- 1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*
- 2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*
- 3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

* Benediction

Postlude

"Rise On Up" (S. & L. Allen)

Larry and Sharon

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