

10-22-2023 Worship Service

Welcome!

This morning we'll continue through the Hebrew scriptures with our big-picture look at God's steadfast faithfulness and the people's response... which is sometimes faithful and sometimes flawed. Today we'll look specifically at the character of David as he is called to be the earthly King of God's people. May it not be lost on us that even as we read and study these ancient texts, there is heightened human suffering happening right now in the very same locations we're reading about in scripture this morning. Marj Shoemaker will share a prayer for Palestine and Israel.

This will be Pastor Tim Schrag's 4th and final Sunday with us – Tim, thank you so much for coming and sharing your wisdom, your insights, your humor, your experiences... our worship has been enriched and our faith has been strengthened with your teaching and preaching among us.

Opportunities

- GMA Community Thanksgiving Dinner will happen 4 weeks from today, on November 19. There are sign-up sheets in both lobbies for food as well as volunteer positions. Thank you for your help in making this important community event happen!
- MCC meat canning video – Dave Esau

Call to Worship (as printed in the bulletin)

Morning Prayer

O God, we join the psalmists, declaring your praises and our gratitude. We thank you for the steadfastness of your love, for your faithfulness to your people and to all of your creation in all of its diversity and beauty. We ask for your forgiveness when our response to you is lacking in trust, or awareness, or action; guide our thoughts, our words and our choices so that our lives reflect your love and hope.

We thank you for reasons to celebrate – for accomplishments like Cassandra Voth's completion of her degree; we pray that she would use her skills and education in your service. We thank you for the fun and fellowship that the High school students had last week as they gathered at Tina and Ben's house and we thank you for the opportunity that the community Jr Hi students have to gather this evening. Bless these times together that your love and your Holy Spirit be present among the groups, encouraging, stretching and challenging them to grow in their faith in you. We thank you God for Pasto Tim and the wisdom and challenges he has brought to us these last weeks in worship. We ask for your blessing on him this morning as he brings the message and also in the coming days and weeks as he continues his work with MDS and other projects that you've gifted him to work on.

Gracious God, we offer our prayers for those we know and love who are sick. Be with those who are recovering from viruses or infections. Be with Braxton and his family as he

travels again to Colorado this week. Give him courage and help him to feel your love with him. Be also with the doctors as they put their medical expertise to work for Braxton's well-being. We pray also for Steve Banman this week as he begins in this clinical trial with an infusion tomorrow. We ask for stamina and strength for Steve physically and for Sandy emotionally as she supports and cares for Steve.

We pray for those in our community who are traveling. We ask for safety and that their time away has brought rest and rejuvenation.

We confess, God, that even as we enjoy relative freedom and peace in our daily lives, we are in the minority alongside of the rest of the world. We pray for those in the midst of horror in Gaza, on the West Bank and in Israel. O Lord, have mercy. May your children in those lands who are all descendants of Abraham somehow remember that they are all your children and they all need a home where they can live and move and have their being in you, their Creator. We pray for those in Ukraine for whom war in their country continues. We pray for others around the world who cannot live in peace under their own vine or fig tree.

You are the God of justice who sent Jesus, the messenger of peace; may your people have strong voices and courageous spirits to live out your call in this world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture – 2 Samuel 5:1-5 NIV

5 All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood. ² In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'"

³ When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.

⁴ David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. ⁵ In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, we ask for your blessing on these gifts and on all the gifts you've given us. Give **us** generosity, humility and gratefulness as we return to you a portion of what we've been given. Amen.

Benediction

Go with God as your vision, your wisdom, your dignity and shelter. Follow God's light. Be God's Love. Amen.