

Welcome!

February 23, 2025

*“A Tale of Weeping”
Judges 11:1-11*

“The making of the vow is an act of unfaithfulness. Jephthah desires to bind God rather than embrace the gift of the spirit. What comes to him freely he seeks to earn and manipulate. The meaning of his words is doubt, not faith; it is control, not courage.”

--Phyllis Trible, *Texts of Terror*

We Gather for Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:

One: Let us give thanks for the hidden hand of God’s providence.

Many: Thank you, God, for working behind the scenes.

One: Help us to keep trusting you when nothing seems to be happening.

Many: Give us the courage to walk in the darkness as well as the light.

One: Guide our steps and give us strength,

Many: So that we will not falter or fail.

--Adapted from Genesis 45

***“O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

(Red Hymnal, p. 173, vv. 1-4)

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.

2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

3 Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the pow'r of reigning sin,
he sets the pris'ner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean,
his blood availed for me.

We Offer Our Praise and Prayers

Morning psalm: 37:1-11, 39-40

Hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

1 What a Friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer.

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

Pastoral prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

We Attend to the Word

Sermon: “A Tale of Weeping” Dr. Bill Ireland
 Judges 11:1-11

***“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”** (Red Hymnal, p. 571)

1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner,
it must not suffer loss:
from vict'ry unto vict'ry
his army he shall lead,
till ev'ry foe is vanquished
and Christ is Lord indeed.

2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict
in this his glorious day:
ye that are men now serve him
against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger,
and strength to strength oppose.

3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own:
put on the gospel armor,
each piece put on with pray'r;
where duty calls, or danger,
be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
the strife will not be long;
this day the noise of battle,
the next the victor's song:
to him that overcometh
a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of glory
shall reign eternally.

***Benediction**

***The Irish Blessing**

**May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind blow at your back.
May the sun shine warmly on your face,
May the rain fall softly on your field.
And until we meet again,
Til' we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.**