

# I WONDER ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD



AUGUST 9, 2020

*The world won't end in a climate change apocalypse. The world won't end in world war. The world ends in worship, neither a bang nor a whimper but a shout and song of praise.— Peter Leithart*

## WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Verset in A Minor*

Boellmann/Wold

### ♦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters, the extravagant love of God has called us together.

**For long before we were even aware of it,  
God knew us.**

God had already chosen us to be part of God's family—children of God!

**And having chosen us, God called us;  
and having called us, God justified us;  
and having justified us, God gave us God's glory!**

What extravagant love is this!  
Let's joyfully worship together!

### OPEN HYMN SING

- ♦ *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* no. 155, vs. 1&6  
Requested by Sarah Cass

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall, let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him,  
crown him, crown him, crown him,  
and crown him Lord of all.**

**O that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall, we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him,  
crown him, crown him, crown him,  
and crown him Lord of all.**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* no. 240, vs. 1&2  
Requested by Stephanie Campitelli

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
off-spring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

*Lord, Speak to Me* no. 463, vs. 1&4

Requested by Nancy and Scott Holland

**Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
in living echoes of thy tone;  
as thou hast sought, so let me seek  
thine erring children lost and lone.**

**O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'er-flow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
thy love to tell, thy praise to show.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Our gracious Savior, how many times must we fall  
before you in repentance? We are so broken.  
We desire to be holy, but apart from you, we are  
nothing. Thank you for forgiveness that is higher  
than the sky, wider than the beach, and deeper  
than the ocean. Your grace amazes us. We confess  
our weakness and failure, knowing that you see us  
no longer as sinners, but as holy children, chosen  
and dearly loved. Pick us up, for we have fallen.  
We choose to run to you. We are your grateful sons  
and daughters. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We are God's people. God is our God. The day is coming when all shall be made new and pain and sorrow shall be wiped away.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and get a taste of  
that glorious future right now. Thanks be to God.  
Amen.**

### ♦ SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Lord is holy and awesome and full of power!  
**God sent God's Son to earth to redeem humankind.**  
Jesus came and lived among us, dying that we might live.

**He returned to heaven, promising to come back  
again one day.**

He will come in righteousness and holiness,  
bringing peace to all.

**The Spirit of God lives with us now, moving and  
breathing life into our souls.**

We wait expectantly for our King, our Ruler, our Savior.  
**Jesus is coming. This we believe. Amen.**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Daniel 12:1-8

"At that time, Michael the great leader who guards your people will take his stand. It will be a difficult time—nothing like it has ever happened since nations first appeared. But at that time every one of your people who is found written in the scroll will be rescued. Many of those who sleep in the dusty land will wake up—some to eternal life, others to shame and eternal disgrace. Those skilled in wisdom will shine like the sky. Those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and always. But you, Daniel, must keep these words secret! Seal the scroll until the end time! Many will stray far, but knowledge will increase." I, Daniel, looked and suddenly saw two other figures—one standing on each side of the stream. One said to the man clothed in white linen, who was farther upstream: "When will these astonishing things be over?" I heard the man clothed in white linen, who was farther upstream, swear by the one who lives forever as he raised both hands to heaven: "For one set time, two set times, and half a set time. When the breaking of the holy people's power is over, all these things will be over." I heard it, but I didn't understand it. "My lord," I said, "what will happen after all this?"

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

MUSIC *The Bones* Morris/arr. Campitelli

Verse 1:

We're in the homestretch of the hard times  
We took a hard left, but we're alright  
Yeah, life sure can try to put love through it, but  
We built this right, so nothing's ever gonna move it

Chorus:

When the bones are good, the rest don't matter  
Yeah, the paint could peel, the glass could shatter  
Let it rain 'cause you and I remain the same  
When there ain't a crack in the foundation  
Baby, I know any storm we're facing  
Will blow right over while we stay put  
The house don't fall when the bones are good

Verse 2:

Call it dumb luck, but baby, you and I  
Can't even mess it up, although we both try  
No, it don't always go the way we planned it  
But the wolves came and went and we're still standing

Chorus 2x

SCRIPTURE Romans 8:19-25 CEB

The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

HYMN *Marching to Zion* no. 733, vs. 1&4

**Come, we that love the Lord,  
and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord,  
join in a song with sweet accord  
and thus surround the throne,  
and thus surround the throne**

Refrain:

**We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
we're marching upward to Zion,  
the beautiful city of God.**

**Then let our songs abound,  
and every tear be dry;  
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,  
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,  
to fairer worlds on high,  
to fairer worlds on high.**

Refrain

SCRIPTURE Mark 13:32-37 CEB

"But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!"

MESSAGE *I Wonder About the End of the World*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

OFFERING

Your giving changes lives. The first life it changes is yours. You have been blessed to be a blessing. In I Timothy it is written: "*As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life (I Ti. 6:17-19).*" Thank you so much for your generosity and your good works.

OFFERING MUSIC *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*  
arr. Held

OFFERING PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refrain:

**My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.**

Vs. 1: **You'll hear the trumpet sound,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall.**

Refrain

Vs. 2: **You'll hear the sinner moan,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall.**

Refrain

Vs. 3: **You'll hear the Christian shout,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall.**

Refrain

## ◆ BENEDICTION

May the God of all hope open your eyes..  
May the God of all peace still your anxious mind.  
May the God of all love fill your heart to fullness  
beyond measure.

**Justice will come. Goodness will reign.  
Until that day, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you. Amen.**

POSTLUDE      *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*  
arr. Held

**Bold text indicates congregational response.**

*Please join us in our Gathering Area Coffee Zoom  
following the service.  
See weekly email for instructions.*

**Thoughts About the End of the World**

*The apocalypse is not something which is coming. The apocalypse has arrived in major portions of the planet and it's only because we live within a bubble of incredible privilege and social insulation that we still have the luxury of anticipating the apocalypse. - Terence McKenna*

*Apocalypse does not point to a fiery Armageddon, but to our ignorance and complacency coming to an end. -Joseph Campbell*

*What the caterpillar calls the end of the world the master calls a butterfly. -Richard Bach*

*This is the way the world ends. This is the way the world ends. This is the way the world ends.*

*Not with a bang but a whimper. -T.S. Elliot*

*Youth is the period in which a man can be hopeless. The end of every episode is the end of the world.*

*But the power of hoping through everything, the knowledge that the soul survives its adventures, that great inspiration comes to the middle-aged. -Gilbert K. Chesterton*

*The world is full of dark shadows to be sure, both the world without and the world within, and the road we've all set off on is long and hard and often hard to find, but the word is trust. Trust the deepest intuitions of your own heart. Trust the source of your own truest gladness. Trust the road. Above all else, trust Jesus. Trust him. Amen. -Frederick Buechner*

*There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened. — C.S. Lewis*

**Worship Participants**

Message: Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks  
Liturgists: Rev. Mercedes Case, Rev. Allen Keller  
Children's Message: Stephanie Campitelli  
Organist: Steve Campitelli  
Soloist and Cello: Stephanie Campitelli  
Hymns Led By: Grace Muzzo

**THINGS TO DO AT HOME**

In the weeks ahead and in the wake of the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, take some time to educate yourself and your children on the systemic nature of racism. We will give you at least 2 tools every week to help you on your journey to disempower this sinful system in your life and in our world.

- Have you heard about the 1619 Project? The 1619 Project is an ongoing project developed by The New York Times Magazine in 2019 with the goal of "reframing American history" around slavery and the contributions of African Americans. There is a school curriculum developed by the project that has been used by more than 3,500 classrooms. Learn about the 1619 Project, here: [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html).
- The 1619 Project also has an audio series that examines how 250 years of slavery has affected our democracy ever since. You may access the podcasts online here: [www.nytimes.com/2019/08/23/podcasts/1619-slavery-anniversary.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/23/podcasts/1619-slavery-anniversary.html).

More things to do:

- **Gateway to Religious Communities** is a series of 4 "virtual visits" coordinated by Interfaith Philadelphia where local congregations and religious communities "open their doors" to the public to share their faith tradition with curious visitors. At these free, online events you are able to:  
1. Virtually visit area congregations for worship services. 2. Meet members from a variety of faith & belief communities. 3. Ask questions – opportunity for dialogue with community leaders and members. The first Gateway visit will be at the Won Buddhist Temple of Philadelphia on Tues., Aug. 4 from 7:45 to 9:30 pm. Registration is free at: [www.tfaforms.com/4840706](http://www.tfaforms.com/4840706)
- Try a new recipe or make dinner as a family; find recipes and tips for cooking with kids at <https://www.delish.com/cooking/g499/kids-cooking-recipes/>.