

## WORSHIP GUIDE FOR OCTOBER 18, 2020

### GATHERING MUSIC

- Dana Moody

### THE MORNING WELCOME

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

### CENTERING PRAYER (in unison)

Loving God, open our eyes and our ears so that we will see and hear the ways you call us to participate in your miracles. Open our hearts so that we may reach out with compassion and respond to the needs of those around us with love. Let us be messengers of hope in the world, as your prophets Elijah and Elisha are messengers of hope for us. Amen.

### SPECIAL MUSIC

“His Grace Is Sufficient for Me”

- Lori Hazlett, JoAnn Story, Monica Whitehurst & Jan Whitzel

### A RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

- Arte Jones

- L:** Heavenly Father, you call us to be your friends and to make friends of others – more even, to recognize in them our brothers and sisters, your family in Christ.
- P:** **So, we pray for ourselves and for the world and its people.**
- L:** We pray for all areas in the world where deep divisions run between ethnic groups because of race, religion or past history.
- P:** **Lord, help your people to be your friends and to make friends – your family in Christ.**
- L:** We pray for our communities where different traditions shape different outlooks on things.
- P:** **Lord, help your people to listen well to each other that we may learn to live together knowing that though different we are your family in Christ.**
- L:** We pray for our own families where growing up is difficult, where harsh words spoken in anger are not easily taken back, and hurtful or thoughtless actions are endangering relationships.
- P:** **Lord, empower your children to be patient, slow to anger and to become wise in their speaking and acting as your family in Christ.**
- L:** Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:
- ALL:** **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 READING

2 Kings 2:8-24 (MSG)

Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and hit the water with it. The river divided and the two men walked through on dry land. When they reached the other side, Elijah said to Elisha,

“What can I do for you before I’m taken from you? Ask anything.” Elisha said, “Your life repeated in my life. I want to be a holy man just like you.”

“That’s a hard one!” said Elijah. “But if you’re watching when I’m taken from you, you’ll get what you’ve asked for. But only if you’re watching.”

And so it happened. They were walking along and talking. Suddenly a chariot and horses of fire came between them and Elijah went up in a whirlwind to heaven. Elisha saw it all and shouted, “My father, my father! You – the chariot and cavalry of Israel!” When he could no longer see anything, he grabbed his robe and ripped it to pieces. Then he picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him, returned to the shore of the Jordan, and stood there. He took Elijah’s cloak – all that was left of Elijah! – and hit the river with it, saying, “Now where is the God of Elijah? Where is he?”

When he struck the water, the river divided and Elisha walked through.

The guild of prophets from Jericho saw the whole thing from where they were standing. They said, “The spirit of Elijah lives in Elisha!” They welcomed and honored him.

Then they said, “We’re at your service. We have fifty reliable men here, let’s send them out to look for your master. Maybe God’s spirit has swept him off to some mountain or dropped him into a remote ravine.” Elisha said, “No. Don’t send them.” But they pestered him until he caved in: “Go ahead then. Send them.” So they sent the fifty men off. For three days they looked, searching high and low. Nothing. Finally, they returned to Elisha in Jericho. He told them, “So there – didn’t I tell you?”

One day the men of the city said to Elisha, “You can see for yourself, master, how well our city is located. But the water is polluted and nothing grows.” He said, “Bring me a brand-new bowl and put some salt in it.” They brought it to him. He then went to the spring, sprinkled the salt into it, and proclaimed, “God’s word: I’ve healed this water. It will no longer kill you or poison your land.” And sure enough, the water was healed – and remains so to this day, just as Elisha said.

Another time, Elisha was on his way to Bethel and some little kids came out from the town and taunted him, “What’s up, old baldhead! Out of our way, skinhead!”

Elisha turned, took one look at them, and cursed them in the name of GOD. Two bears charged out of the underbrush and knocked them about, ripping them limb from limb—forty-two children in all!

## **SERMON**

**- Dr. Tim Hazlett**

### **HOPE FOR HARD TIMES LESSONS ON FAITH FROM ELIJAH AND ELISHA “When Words Hurt”**

## **MEDITATIVE HYMN**

**“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”**

***[NOTE: If you are worshiping with us in-person please refrain from singing; humming or a time of meditative silence is permissible. If you are at home on Facebook Live you may sing.]***

1. He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
by waters still, over troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.  
He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor repine;  
content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me.  
He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

**CLOSING PRAYER (in unison)**

**- Arte Jones**

**Lord, give Your people Your peace that we may shine brightly in a dark world. Grant us the courage to live faithfully even in the midst of hard times. Let our fear of You be the beginning of wisdom rather than allowing the fear of the world to drive our actions. Help us to embrace our heavenly citizenship and live strangely in the midst of a world that needs to know You.**

**Show Your mercy and heal those who are suffering in Your fallen creation. Most of all Lord, come. Restore the world You have made and make all things new. We pray that Your will would be done. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

**- Dana Moody**