

Sunday Service: May 17, 2020

"Beauty, Beauty in Intention, Beauty Materialized, and Beauty in the Human Being!"



This Sunday, Steve will interview Melanie Rodriguez, the artist who is covering our outdoor lockers with flowers. They will discuss beauty, art, healing, and the simple tasks that make these happen.

"Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Link to YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fenY2mXq1So>



1. GATHERING



- **Prelude:** “Morning has Broken,” performed by Cat Stevens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOTInLOJuUM>

- **Call to Worship:** Based Psalms 118 (**L:** leader, **P:** people)
 - **ALL:** God is our refuge and strength, a very real help whenever we are in trouble.
 - **L:** Okay, so then you won’t be afraid even when the earth’s climate changes, or when the earthquakes and the mountains crumble, or hurricanes and tsunamis cause the seas to roar and foam and even when a viral pandemic darkens the sky.
 - **ALL:** (Selah: stop and listen)
 - **P:** We shall be still and wait until God comes to help us.
 - **L:** Like a river fed by mountain streams, God can refresh our weary souls!
 - **P:** And we shall float motionless in mid-stream!
 - **L:** And if God is in our midst, nothing should be able to shake our hope and confidence.
 - **P:** God’s help is as certain as the morning’s dawn.
 - **L:** The leaders of nations may stomp up and down, lie and pout. But rulers and kingdoms always come and go!
 - **P:** We will be still, knowing that the Lord of hosts is with us forever.
 - **ALL:** (Selah: pause and take note)
 - **L:** God will bring an end to violence and wars, since the Lord can snap arrows and spears with his breath and squish aircraft carriers with his little finger.
 - **P:** We will remain still, knowing that God is love and peace!
 - **L:** The Lord of everything is with us; the God, who was faithful to our ancestors is also our refuge.
 - **ALL:** (Selah, amen... may it be so!)



“People are like stained - glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.” — Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

- **Confessional Prayer:** (spoken in unison)

Lord,
Enlighten what is dark in me,
Strengthen what is weak in me,
Mend what is broken in me,
Bind what is bruised in me,
Heal what is sick in me,
And lastly,
resurrect whatever peace and love has died in me.
— Amen



- **Singing:** “For the Beauty of the Earth,” performed by Mike Curb Congregation
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTcJ_SQruhE

2. HEARING GOD’S WORD

- **Scripture:** Matthew 6:25-34

Matt 6: 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?"

32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

- **Song:** "His Eye on the Sparrow," performed by Lauryn Hill and Tanya Blount <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H74FBgOZTDw>
- **Message:** "Beauty, Beauty in Intention, Beauty Materialized, and Beauty in the Human Being!" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pj4wpoVA4Dw>



*Of life's two chief prizes,
beauty and truth, I found
the first in a loving heart
and the second in a
laborer's hand."*

— Khalil Gibran

3. RESPONDING TO GOD



- Singing
- Reflections and Responses



- **Joys and Concerns**

Please pray for:

- Gloria and Shyerl who are without housing again.
- Those staying at N. Atzlan Center and other shelters without their own housing.
- Cathy's patient Maria who lost her restaurant job due to the virus and is very grateful for our generosity.
- Cathy's friend Heather who is dying of cancer.
- Annie's good friend Renee in Mississippi who has been in isolation and treated for COVID-19 since early April and must remain isolated for two more weeks.
- Maurice's neighbor John who has lost his job and is concerned about losing his apartment.
- Denise after her friends passed away in Toto Santos, Mexico.
- Keith and family for the choices they need to make regarding his father.
- Holly regarding her cancer treatments.
- Gus who is still experiencing lots of pain in his neck, back, and knees.



"Flowers... are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty outvalues all the utilities of the world." — Ralph Waldo Emerson



- **Sending into God's World:** "For the Beauty of the Earth," performed by Angel Voices (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zc5vnlv2WS0>)

- **Closing**

- **Post Service Conversation**

Keep in mind this verse from the song, "Higher Ground":

*Power keeps on lyin'
while the people keep on dyin'
Teachers keep on teachin'
Believers keep on believin'
Because it won't be so long,
until we reach the higher ground!*

Now's let's chat with everyone via Zoom!

