

## Sunday Service: April 19, 2020

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### *“I Curse the Very Day that I was Born: A Man Named Job and the Dilemma of Why Bad Things Happen to Good People”*



“There is only one question which really matters: why do bad things happen to good people? All other theological conversation is intellectually diverting... Virtually every meaningful conversation I have ever had with people on the subject of God and religion has either started with this question, or gotten around to it before long.

The misfortunes of good people are not only a problem to the people who suffer and to their families. They are a problem to everyone who wants to believe in a just and fair and livable world. They inevitably raise questions about the goodness, the kindness, even the existence of God.”

—*When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, by Harold S. Kushner

[Click here to watch the service in YouTube.](#)

### 1. GATHERING



#### ▪ Prelude

#### ▪ Call to Worship: Based Psalms 118 (L: leader, P: people)

- L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, always!
- P: For, "His steadfast love endures forever."
- L: Let the households gathered by Zoom say,
- P: "His steadfast love endures forever."
- L: Let those who are troubled by fear, say to the Lord,
- P: "His steadfast love endures forever."
- L: Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord heard me and answered me!
- P: Let the preachers, elders and leaders of the church say,
- L: "His steadfast love endures forever."
- P: The Lord is at my side, so I am not afraid.
- L: Seriously, if God loves me, what real harm can others cause me?
- P: With the Lord's help I shall triumph over my anxieties!
- L: Isn't it so much better to take refuge in the Lord than to base our confidence in what other people think of us?
- P: It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in politicians!
- L: Viruses surround me but because of the Lord I will not give into hopelessness.
- P: We are being pushed to our limits; we feel as if we are falling.
- L: But the Lord is our help, God is my strength and the source of my power and my God has saved me from destruction time and time again!



- P: Whether we live or die, we will declare recount the steadfast love of the Lord.
- L: Blessed is anyone who calls on the name of the Lord. The Lord is God, we walk in that healing light.
- P: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you and worship you.
- L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, always!
- ALL: and his steadfast love endures forever.

- **Confessional Prayer:** (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** 🎵

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD



- **Children's Time**

- **Scripture:** Selections from Job 1 and 2

*“There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east...*



*The Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil.’ Then Satan answered the Lord, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.’ The Lord said to Satan, ‘Very well, all that he has is in your power...’*

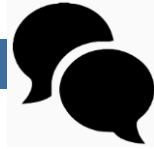
*Now when Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home... They met together to go and console and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their*

robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great...

After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. Job said: 'Let the day perish in which I was born, and the night that said, A man-child is conceived.' Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, or light shine on it... Why did I not die at birth, come forth from the womb and expire?'"

- **Message:** "I Curse the Very Day that I was Born: A Man Named Job and the Dilemma of Why Bad Things Happen to Good People?"

### 3. RESPONDING TO GOD



- **Singing** 
- **Reflections and Responses**
- **Joys and Concerns**

**These are the prayers from last week:**

- Pray for Angela's father who may need to move from assisted living to a nursing home due to declining health.
- For Lynette's friend Laura who is a back-up Certified Nursing Assistance.
- For Gloria who has started up chemo again and for Sheryl who helps care for her.
- For Holly's continued healing from her cancer and cancer treatments.
- For the family of Carla's brother-in law after he passed away from a heart attack.
- For Jeff's brother who works as a respiratory therapist in Dallas.
- For parents with younger kids at home — especially those who still must work from home and now have 24x7 childcare responsibilities.
- For all those working on the front lines in this pandemic.
- For the poor who suffer the most intakes of crises such as these.
- For all of us – that we may learn to stop listening to unhealthy fears that want to control us, and instead, let go and allow God to help us.



- **Sending into God's World**
- **Closing**
- **Special Request:** The church is looking for pots, with or without soil, that FCMF can use to plant some flowers to cheer up the place!

