

January 26, 2025

Worship | 8:15 and 11 am

Livestream | 11 am



# LEXINGTON

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For God's glory, we are making disciples of Jesus as we worship, love, and serve.

# WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We invite you to experience the meaning of the Gospel through this service, which reflects both ancient and modern elements of Christian worship. When we gather as a worshipping community, we enter into a dialogue with the living God. God calls us into worship, we rejoice in the hope of the Gospel, confess our sins, lament the brokenness of our world, give our offerings, and hear God's Word read and preached. We hope that by worshipping with us, you will experience joy and hope from a community of people who love Jesus.

At Lexington Presbyterian Church, for God's glory, we are making disciples of Jesus as we worship, love, and serve.

Complete our Connect Card at [lexpreschurch.com/connect](http://lexpreschurch.com/connect) to join us on mission!

General inquiries: [hello@lexpreschurch.com](mailto:hello@lexpreschurch.com)

# LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

\* Congregation, please stand if able

Prelude

## PRAISE

**Updates** | Following Christ Together

\* **Call to Worship** | Psalm 34:1-3

*Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

**All:** My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt his name together!

\* All Creature of Our God and King-Trinity Hymnal No. 115 (vv. 1, 2, 3, 5)



1. All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and  
 2. Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in  
 3. Thou flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for thy  
 5. Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in



with us sing al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing  
 heav'n a - long, O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing  
 Lord to hear, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so  
 hum - ble - ness, O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the



sun with gold - en beam, thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam,  
 morn in praise re - joice, ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice,  
 mas - ter - ful and bright, that giv - est man both warmth and light,  
 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spir - it, three in one,



O praise him, O praise him, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Trinity Hymnal No. 115 (vv. 1, 2, 3, 5)*

TEXT: Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225; Tr. by William H. Draper, 1926

Text © 1926, G. Schirmer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune by permission of Oxford University Press

TUNE (LASST UNS ERFREUEN): *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623

©1990, Great Commission Publications, Inc.

CCLI License # 668805

\* Prayer of Invocation

\* **New Testament Scripture Reading** | Romans 9:4-18 | Pew Bible p. 945

They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

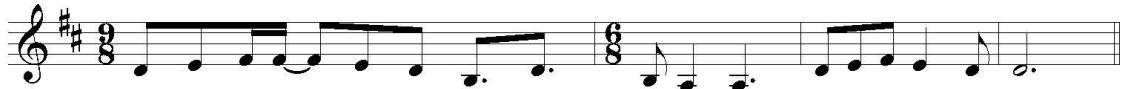
# Only A Holy God



1. Who else com - mands all the hosts of heav - en? \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. What oth - er beau - ty de - mands such prais - es? \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. What oth - er glo - ry con - sumes like fire? \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Who else could res - cue me from my fail - ing? \_\_\_\_\_



Who else could make ev - 'ry king bow down?  
 What oth - er splen - dor out - shines the sun?  
 What oth - er pow - er can raise the dead?  
 Who else would of - fer His on - ly Son?



Who else can whis - per and dark - ness trem - bles? \_\_\_\_\_ On - ly a Ho - ly God. *[to verse 2]*  
 What oth - er maj - es - ty rules with jus - tice? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What oth - er name re - mains un - de - feat - ed? \_\_\_\_\_ } On - ly a Ho - ly God.  
 Who else in - vites me to call Him Fa - ther? \_\_\_\_\_



Come and be - hold Him, the One and the On - ly. Cry out, sing ho - ly, for -



ev - er a Ho - ly God; come and wor - ship the Ho - ly God.

Words and Music: Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, Dustin Smith, Rich Thompson  
 © 2016 CityAlight Music  
 CCLI License # 668805

# RENEWAL

## Call to Confession | Matthew 3:8

*Leader: Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.*

## Corporate Confession of Sin | From the 1552 Book of Common Prayer

All: Almighty God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Maker of all things,  
Judge of all peoples,  
we acknowledge and repent of our manifold sins and evil thoughts,  
which we have most grievously committed against Your holy character.  
We have sinned in thought, word, and in deed against Your divine Majesty,  
and have provoked Your wrath and indignation against us.  
We earnestly repent, and grieve over our sins and transgressions,  
and ask for Your cleansing and renewal in our lives individually  
and corporately.  
Forgive all that is in our past,  
and grant that we may ever live from now on to serve  
and to please You in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of Your Name,  
through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

## Silent Confession

**\* Words of Comfort** | Matthew 11:28-30

*Leader: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

**\* Passing of the Peace**

*Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.*

**All:** And also with you.

# \* Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor



1. Christ, the sure and steady an - chor, in the fu - ry of the storm;  
 2. Christ, the sure and steady an - chor, while the tem - pest rag - es on.  
 3. Christ, the sure and steady an - chor, thru the floods of un - be - lief.  
 4. Christ, the sure and steady an - chor, as we face the wave of death.



when the winds of doubt blow thru me and my sails have all been torn.  
 When temp - ta - tion claims the bat - tle and it seems the night has won,  
 Hope - less some - how, O my soul, now lift your eyes to Cal - va - ry!  
 When these trials give way to glo - ry, as we draw our fi - nal breath,



In the suf - fring, in the sor - row, when my sink - ing hopes are few,  
 deep - er still then goes the an - chor, tho' I just - ly stand ac - cused.  
 This my bal - last of as - sur - ance, see His love for - ev - er proved.  
 we will cross that great ho - ri - zon, clouds be - hind and life se - cure.  
 (5.) Christ, the shore of our sal - va - tion, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er true.



I will hold fast to the an - chor, it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 I will hold fast to the an - chor, it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 I will hold fast to the an - chor, it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 And the calm will be the bet - ter, for the storms that we en - dure.  
 We will hold fast to the an - chor, it shall nev - er be re - moved.

Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell  
 © 2014 Doxology & Theology (Admin. by Doxology & Theology)  
 CCLI Song # 7045331  
 For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com  
 CCLI License # 668805

\* **Affirmation of Faith** | The Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose  
again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church; \*  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

\*the universal church that trusts in Christ alone

## Friendship Register

Kindly remember to give your neighbor the Friendship Register. Once it reaches the end of the pew, then please pass it back. Making acquaintances with guests and fostering friendships within the larger church family is the goal of this register. Starting from the middle aisle, the register is located at the head of each pew. Please, make sure to write your name legibly.

## Worship Through Giving

The offering is a way for members and friends of Lexington Presbyterian to present the substance of their whole lives to God. Please feel no pressure to give.

Ways to give:

- You may use the offering plates.
- Go to “Giving” on your Church Center mobile app or [lexpres.churchcenter.com](http://lexpres.churchcenter.com).
- Text2Give: text any dollar amount to 84321.

# Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me [8:15 a.m. only]



1. What gift of grace is Je - sus my re - dee - mer There is no  
 2. The night is dark but I am not for - sak - en For by my  
 3. No fate I dread, I know I am for - giv - en The fu - ture  
 4. With eve - ry breath I long to fol - low Je - sus For he has



more for hea - ven now to give He is my joy, my righ - teous - ness, and  
 side, the Sav - ior he will stay. I lab - or on in weak - ness and re -  
 sure, the price it has been paid. For Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my  
 said that he will bring me home. And day by day I know he will re -



free - dom My stead - fast love, my deep and bound - less peace. To this I hold, my hope is on - ly  
 joi - cing For in my need, his pow - er is dis - played. To this I hold, my Shep - herd will de -  
 par - don and He was raised to o - ver - throw the grave. To this I hold, my sin has been de -  
 new me Un - til I stand with joy be - fore the throne To this I hold, my hope is on - ly



Je - sus For my life is who - lly bound to his. Oh how  
 fend - me Through the deep - est val - ley he will lead Oh the  
 fea - ted Je - sus now and ev - er is my plea Oh the  
 Je - sus All the glo - ry ev - er - more to him When the



strange and di - vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
 night has been won, and I shall ov - er - come! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
 chains are re - leased, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
 race is com - plete, still my lips shall re - peat: Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Words & Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren  
 © 2018 CityAlight Music  
 Used by Permission. CCLI License # 668805

## Lord, from Sorrows Deep I Call (Psalm 42) | Choir Anthem [11 a.m. only]

Lord, from sorrows deep I call,  
when my hope is shaken;  
torn and ruined from the fall,  
hear my desperation.

For so long I've pled and prayed,  
God, come to my rescue.

Even so the thorn remains,  
still my heart will praise You.

Storms within my troubled soul,  
questions without answers.

On my faith these billows roll,  
God, be now my shelter.

Why are you cast down, my soul?  
Hope in Him who saves you.

When the fires have all grown cold,  
cause this heart to praise You.

Should my life be torn from me,  
ev'ry worldly pleasure,  
when all I possess is grief,  
God, be then my treasure.

Be my vision in the night,  
be my hope and refuge.

'Til my faith is turned to sight,  
Lord, my heart will praise You.

O my soul, put your hope in God.  
My help, my rock, I will praise Him.  
Sing, O sing, through the raging storm.  
You're still my God, my salvation.

O my soul, put your hope in God.  
My help, my rock, I will praise Him.  
Sing, O sing, through the raging storm.  
You're still my God, my salvation.

Words and Music by Matt Boswell and Matt Pappa/Arranged by Phillip Keveren  
© 2018 Love Your Enemies Publishing (ASCAP)/  
Getty Music Hymns and Songs  
(ASCAP)/Messenger Hymns (BMI)/  
Getty Music Publishing (BMI)(admin. by Music  
Services, [www.musicservices.org](http://www.musicservices.org)).

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CCLI # 7127376.

CCLI License # 668805

## \* The Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:  
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674

Tune (OLD HUNDREDDTH): Louis Bourgeois, 1551

© 1990, Great Commission Publications, Inc.

Used by Permission. CCLI # 668805

## \* Offertory Prayer

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

## Corporate Prayer

## Children's Sermon | "A Tongue and Groove Partnership"

## Reception of New Members

Communing Members by Affirmation of Faith

David and Judy Scales

### \* Scripture Reading | Nehemiah 2:1-10 | p. 398

<sup>1</sup> In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. <sup>2</sup> And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. <sup>3</sup> I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" <sup>4</sup> Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." <sup>6</sup> And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. <sup>7</sup> And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, <sup>8</sup> and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

<sup>9</sup> Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. <sup>10</sup> But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

## **Sermon | Rebuilding Walls, Restoring Hope. A Narrative Study of Nehemiah**

### **3. God's Timing is Always Right**

Rev. Dr. Curt McDaniel

## Sermon Notes

### Rebuilding Walls, Restoring Hope

#### A Narrative Study of Nehemiah

In chapter 1, we learned that Nehemiah received life-altering news from his brother and a delegation that the Jewish captives who returned to Jerusalem lived with “trouble and shame,” surrounded by dismantled walls and demolished gates (1:3). This shocking report moved him to fast and to mourn for days and to pray with reverence, intercession, repentance, and fervency to God for wisdom to know when to act (1:4-11). **Now, nearly four months later** <sup>1</sup> (1:1 with 2:1), an occasion with the king helped him discern that the time could be prudentially favorable to make a formal request to the king. Herodotus (484-425 BC), the famed Greek historian and geographer (Cicero called him “The Father of History”), noted in his Histories the proclivity of Persian kings to grant favors at particular times of the year, notably “The law of the feast, which required that no one who asked a boon that day at the king’s board should be denied his request.” <sup>2</sup> See similarly Esther 5:3, 6. With time to pray, to think, and to plan, he senses that the time was ripe to move forward in providential wisdom and in human discernment, both seen in this text. If he moved thoughtlessly or prayerlessly, it could cost his life (Esther 4:11), so humble spiritual dependence *with* thoughtful sensitivity was needed to gain the proper results.

2:1-10 shows us the inseparable bond woven between God’s sovereign actions and timing with Nehemiah’s character that resulted in a movement towards Jerusalem’s restoration: “It is probable that he himself required some time for deliberation before he could come to a decision as to the best means of remedying the distresses of Jerusalem; then, too, he may not have ventured at once to bring his request before the king from fear of meeting with a refusal and may therefore have waited till an opportunity favorable to his desires should present itself.” <sup>3</sup> In leadership—*especially spiritual leadership*—there is no substitute for prayer and humble dependence upon God *with* the proper God-given supply of wisdom, personal integrity, and intuitive sensitivity to the moment-at-hand that creates the opportune window to act in fruitful ways. 4 principles that address a major life issue:

## *How do you know when the time is right to act?*

### *In God's Timing:*

- i. **Opportunity surfaces** (1-2): Nehemiah realized as a cupbearer that a strategic opportunity would come his way to get close to the king with the serving of wine at a social occasion (the queen was with him, 2:6). It is well documented throughout history how queens—usually with little formal authority—have possessed informal persuasion powers over kings, <sup>4</sup> and it is speculatively possible (perhaps likely) that in his position Nehemiah could have privately spoken to her about this in advance. No doubt he had prayed, waited, strategized, and calculated the risks involved in making his countenance vulnerable before his king. Yet, he sensed that the occasion was right, and he seized the opportunity. And the king noticed his “sad” (Hebrew: “bad,” “displeasing,” “unkind”) face, and it caused him to inquire: “Of course, the king desired to count on professional servants; on the other hand, some sympathy made him ask about the background to Nehemiah’s state of mind, with exactly the same words as Joseph in Genesis 40:7. Being confronted with the question, Nehemiah did not know whether it was a form of reprimand or of sympathy. Since the king had observed the problem in any case, the best way out was a full explanation. Notwithstanding Nehemiah’s trust in God, the gravity of the moment was very clear: Nehemiah had to ask his question, with no certainty regarding the king’s reaction.” <sup>5</sup> This shows marks of spiritual leadership:
  - a. *Patience*: Discerning and waiting for the opportune time.
  - b. *Dependence*: Trusting in God to open the door of opportunity.
  - c. *Discernment*: The ability—spiritually and intuitively—to “see” this opportunity and to act on it.
2. **Relationships rule** (2b-4): The dialogue between King Artaxerxes and Nehemiah shows that a legitimate, bonded relationship existed between them, resulting in the king’s genuine interest in Nehemiah’s facial sorrow: “The king had simply never seen Nehemiah look so bad and presumed that he was dealing with a deep anguish.” <sup>6</sup> Of course the king did not have to show concern, *but he did*. What this shows in Nehemiah:
  - a. *Credibility*: Nehemiah built trustworthy bonds with the king, seen in his reliability

and faithfulness.

- b. *Vulnerability*: Nehemiah admits fear in asking the king, but he weighed the risk and did it.
  - c. *Respect*: Nehemiah shows significant honor to his king by addressing him properly (“Let the king live forever!”).
  - d. *Tactfulness*: notice that Nehemiah doesn’t use the word “Jerusalem” in his appeal, for good reason: “Nehemiah wisely presents the matter as a personal issue by referring to the city of the graves of my fathers... Keeping the matter generic allows the king to save face.”<sup>7</sup> Remember, Artaxerxes gave the decree (letter) that halted the progress of rebuilding (Ezra 4:7-24). Nehemiah’s tact allowed the king to escape embarrassment.
  - e. *Reliance*: by praying quietly to God before he responds to the king’s question.
3. **Credibility is rewarded** (5-9): Grounding his appeal on a credible relationship with the king (“Your servant has found favor in your sight”), Nehemiah stands on his personal platform and makes a sizable request. Quality characteristics of a credible, personal platform:
- a. *Faithfulness to duty*: Nehemiah found favor because the king deemed him faithful.
  - b. *Common ground/concern*: “The city where my fathers are buried” appeals to a universal desire to respect one’s past and heritage, regardless of race, creed, or lineage: “Through reference to his father’s graves, Nehemiah touched the king’s Zoroastrian sensitivity; similar with the fact that the city is destroyed by fire, an unholy use of fire, which was so important in Iranian religion.”<sup>8</sup>
  - c. *Anticipation*: Thinking ahead of answers to the kind of questions that the king will ask and devising a plan that will succinctly address his concerns (similar to Joseph before Pharaoh in Genesis 41).
  - d. *Forward thinking*: Realizing that letters from the king for safe passage and for materials will be needed for the long journey (900 miles): “Nehemiah had prayed long enough (see on verse 1) and had faith enough to visualize the operation in some detail, even to the building technique he would be using for the wall (on which, see Ezra 5:8). But the decisive factor, as he recognized, was not his faith but the object of

it: the God who was his God, whose good (i.e., gracious) hand was upon him.”<sup>9</sup>

- e. *Recognition*: Acknowledging that God’s grace was upon him, the same grace that opened the king’s heart with favor.
4. **Opposition lurks** (10): Do not think for the first moment that Satan will sit idle and let God’s work go unopposed. Quite the opposite! At least one, maybe both of these men (Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant) held status, influence, and power, so good leadership recognizes that where God is working, evil is waiting in ambush mode: “According to official correspondence between Yehud [Judah] and the Jewish colony in Egyptian Elephantine, Sanballat would, in 408 BC, become governor of Samaria, Jerusalem’s chief rival and nearest neighbor; he may well have already taken up the post, or at least have been aspiring to it, when Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem in 445 BC. It is possible that ‘Tobiah the Ammonite’ was in fact a governor of Ammon and thus a regional peer of Sanballat and Nehemiah, but the latter’s probably pejorative reference to Tobiah as ‘the servant, the Ammonite’ (2:10) and his association with Sanballat may suggest that Tobiah was a powerful but ultimately subordinate associate within the Samaritan hierarchy.”<sup>10</sup> What this shows about Nehemiah’s spiritual leadership:
- a. *There is spiritual alertness* to spot God’s movement and Satan’s counterintelligence.
- b. *There is courage and boldness* to stand against God’s enemies at the right time (we will see later).

*Personal Application: Spiritual life lessons for every Christian to realize and to embrace:*

- Prayer: “You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed”<sup>11</sup> (John Bunyan). Nehemiah teaches us the importance of praying and waiting on God’s timing.
- Personal character: Integrity before others builds credible bridges of trust that pivot effective spiritual leadership.
- Faithfulness and daily loyalty in the nitty-gritty: Reliability towards your superiors to earn their trust and favor.

### Personal Reflection:

No one did this better than Jesus! Often He would say in His ministry, “My time has not yet come” (John 2:4, 7:6, 30 and parallels). No one saw opportunities, built better relationships and credibility, and understood the enemy better than the Son of God. See His humble dependance upon God, the strategic place of prayer in His life and work, and the priority He placed upon adding value to people. All these qualities, and many more, make Him the great and mighty Savior that He is! And He did all this in LOVE for you!

“Our blessed Lord is to be imitated by us in that He frequently sought and enjoyed retirement. His was a very busy life; He had much more to do than you and I have; yet He found abundant time for private prayer. He was much holier than any of us are; yet He realized His need of private prayer and meditation. He was much wiser than we shall ever be; yet He felt the necessity for retiring into solitude for communion with His Father. He had much power over Himself, He could control and compose Himself far more readily than we can; yet, amid the distractions of the world, He felt that He must frequently get away alone. It would be well for us if we were more often alone; we are so busy—so taken up with this or that...all sorts of things, good, bad, or indifferent, that we have no leisure for the due cultivation of our spiritual life. We rush from pillar to post, without proper time for rest; but brothers and sisters, if we want to be strong, if we mean to be like Jesus our Lord and Savior, we must have our Gethsemane, our place for secret retirement, where we can get alone with our God. I think it was Luther who said, ‘I have a hard day’s work before me today; it will take me many hours, and there will be a stern struggle, so I must have at least three hours’ prayer, that I may gain the necessary strength for my task.’ Ah! We do not act in that wise fashion nowadays; we feel as if we cannot spare the time for private prayer; but had we more communion with God, we should have more influence with men.”<sup>12</sup>

### Study and Discussion Questions:

- Review and discuss each of the 4 principles seen in this text that address the life issue, “How do you know when the time is right to act?” What do you see and learn here?
- How important is personal credibility and integrity in forming and maintaining good relationships with others, as seen here in Nehemiah?

- Nehemiah waited for 3-4 months before he asked the king to go to Jerusalem. What did he do in this waiting time? What principles can we learn from this?
- What personal lessons do you draw from Nehemiah's example in Chapters 1 and 2:1-10?

Footnotes:

1. There is a range of time in the months between Chislev, our mid-November to mid-December (1:1) with Nisan, our mid-March to mid-April (2:1), so it is likely to be at least three, most likely four months in view. John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, and Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000, 473.
2. Herodotus, *Histories*, IX:110-111.
3. C.F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*. Ten Volumes. Trans. Sophia Taylor. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980. III (Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther): 164.
4. Edwin Yamauchi, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. 12 Volumes. Ed. Frank Gaebel. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. IV (Ezra-Nehemiah): 685.
5. Geert W. Lorein, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. 27 Volumes. Eds. David G. Firth and Tremper Longman III. Downers Grove: IVP Academic. XII (Ezra & Nehemiah): 161.
6. Hannah K. Harrington, *The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*. *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. General Eds. Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. and Bill T. Arnold. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022, 285.
7. *Ibid.*
8. Lorein, 161-162, Joseph Fleishman, "Nehemiah's Request on Behalf of Jerusalem," in I. Kalimi (ed), *New Perspectives on Ezra—Nehemiah: History and Historiography, Text, Literature, and Interpretation*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2012, 241-266. Original emphasis.
9. Derek Kidner, *Ezra and Nehemiah: An Introduction and Commentary*. *Tyndale OT Commentaries*. D.J. Wiseman, General Editor. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1979, 81. Original emphasis.

10. David J. Shepherd and Christopher J.H. Wright, *Ezra and Nehemiah. The Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018, 54.
11. <https://quotefancy.com/quote/1113407/John-Bunyan-You-can-do-more-than-pray-after-you-have-prayed-but-you-cannot-do-more-than>
12. Charles H. Spurgeon, "Jesus in Gethsemane." *A Treasury of Spurgeon on the Life and Work of Our Lord*. 6 Volumes. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979. VI: 91-92. Original emphasis.

## \* Be Thou My Vision



1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;  
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
 4. High King of hea - ven, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!



Thou my best thought by day or by night  
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son;  
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wa - king or sleep - ing Thy pres - ence my light.  
 Thou in me dwell - ing and I with Thee one.  
 High King of hea - ven, my trea - sure Thou art.  
 still be my vis - ion, O Rul - er of all.

Ancient Irish poem  
 Trans. by Mary Byrne  
 Versified by Eleanor Hull  
 Traditional Irish melody/Arranged by David Lutes  
 © 2007 David K. Lutes  
 CCLI License # 668805

## \* Sending

## \* **Benediction** | Romans 15:13

*Leader: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

## \* Postlude

### **Serving This Morning:**

Updates: Tyler Josephson

Liturgist and Pastoral Prayer: Owen McCullough

Readers: Lara Lomas, Steve Coleridge

Musicians: Heather Coleridge, Barb Howell, and Josiah Rogers

Audio/visual and livestream: Tommy Spurgeon, John Parler

### **Faith Promise Giving:**

LPC fiscal budget year is July 1st to June 30th.

Through the end of December 2024:

General Fund transfer to missions     \$64,988

Transfer from 2023/2024 surplus\*     \$44,702

Faith Promise Giving:                     \$59,464

Missions Disbursements                 \$91,769

\* The Elders and Deacons transferred one-half of last year's operating surplus to missions.

## Stewardship

Through the end of December, 2024:

Budget FYTD	\$610,637
Received FYTD	\$614,796
Expenditures FYTD	\$516,343

## Updates

### Midweek Reset Small Group | Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

LPC has a Midweek Reset Small group that meets every Wednesday in the Parlor each time church meal is served at 5:30 p.m.

Our new study is the video series “**Unoffendable**” by **Brant Hansen**.

“As it turns out, giving up our right to be offended is one of the most freeing, healthy, relaxing, refreshing, stress-relieving, and encouraging things we can do. It allows us to recognize that people are broken and stop being scandalized by their actions. It enables us to accept people and stop judging them. It creates a way for us to not just love others but to actually like them.”

Please join us each week as we discuss each of the six 18 minute videos.

### New Women 2 Women Bible study | January 29

Women’s Ministry would like to invite all ladies to the upcoming Women 2 Women Bible study on Wednesday nights starting **January 29th**. The study will be in 1st and 2nd Peter. Come have a meal at 5:30 p.m., then join the sisters at 6:15 p.m. in room 204.

### Footsteps of Paul & John Tour Final Call

This is the final call for anyone wishing to secure their spot on the Footsteps of Paul & John + 7 Churches of Revelation Tour June 5-18. Deposits are due to Pastor Curt no later than this **WEDNESDAY, January 29**. Please contact Pastor Curt immediately if you wish to sign up.

May the GOD of *Hope*  
 fill you with all *Joy*  
 and *Peace* as you trust  
 in HIM, so that you  
 may overflow with  
*Hope* by the Power  
 of the HOLY SPIRIT  
 Romans 15:13 NIV

## Lexington Community Health and Safety Fair

**Coming Soon!**

Saturday March 1, 2025 9:30am - 1:30pm  
 Lexington Leisure Center | 108 Park Rd

- Volunteers Needed
- Clothing Donations Wanted (shoes and hangers too)

Registration for Volunteers opening soon  
 Boxes for donations near Children's Desk



 LPC Women's Ministry

## Women's Winter Event

Saturday, February 8th | 11:00am



Register Now!



**If you haven't please find and install the Church Center App**

- ✓ Check-In Your Family
- ♥ Give
- 🗺 Find and Join Small Groups
- 👤 Manage Yours and Your Family's Profile
- 📅 Register for Events



 **LEXINGTON**  
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Music and Worship

[lexpreschurch.com/jobs](http://lexpreschurch.com/jobs)

## Connect Card

Thanks for joining us today.  
We would love to come alongside you in your walk with Jesus, whether you're new to our community or you've been here a while.

Visit [lexpreschurch.com/connect](https://lexpreschurch.com/connect) or scan the QR code to fill out our Connect Card!

If you're not familiar with QR codes, we're here to help!

1. Open your smartphone's camera and point it at the QR code so that it shows clearly on your screen.
2. Wait for the camera to recognize and scan the QR code.
3. Click the link banner or notification when it pops up on your screen. Our Connect Card will automatically load in your browser.



## Women's Ministry website and Facebook group:

<https://lexpreschurch.com/womens-ministry/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LPCWomen>

## Youth Ministry Newsletter Subscription

Please, scan this QR Code with your phone camera.



246 Barr Road | Lexington, SC 29072

[www.lexpreschurch.com](http://www.lexpreschurch.com)

[hello@lexpreschurch.com](mailto:hello@lexpreschurch.com)

803.359.9501