

WORDS OF WELCOME – PASTOR SEANN DUFFIN

CALL TO WORSHIP

GREAT IS OUR GOD AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED.
WORSHIP THE ONE WHOSE GRACE COVERS ALL OUR NEEDS.

THE GOD OF HOSTS IS WITH US HERE.
WITH JOY, WE PRAISE GOD'S HOLY NAME.

PONDER GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE IN EVERY PLACE. CONSIDER THE LOVE THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

GOD'S LOVE IS AMAZING AND BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING. WE SEEK TO SHARE THE LOVE WE ARE RECEIVING.

WE HAVE GATHERED TO BE EQUIPPED FOR THE JOURNEY OF LIFE. WE ARE HERE SO THAT WE MIGHT BE EMPOWERED.

SOMETIMES WE ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH.
SO WE PRAY THAT GOD WILL USE OUR WEAKNESS FOR GOOD.

LET US WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER.

SONG OF PRAISE

APOSTLES' CREED — PASTOR LATAYA SIMPSON

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;

AND IN JESUS CHRIST HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD:

WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRT,

BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,

SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD, AND BURIED;

THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD;

HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,

AND SITTETH AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY;

FROM THENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE QUICK 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.

PSALM 103— PASTOR LATAYA SIMPSON

¹BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, BLESS HIS HOLY NAME. ²BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND DO NOT FORGET ALL HIS BENEFITS— ³WHO FORGIVES ALL YOUR INIQUITY, WHO HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES, ⁴WHO REDEEMS YOUR LIFE FROM THE PIT, WHO CROWNS YOU WITH STEADFAST LOVE AND MERCY, ⁵WHO SATISFIES YOU WITH GOOD AS LONG AS YOU LIVE SO THAT YOUR YOUTH IS RENEWED LIKE THE EAGLE'S.

6THE LORD WORKS VINDICATION AND JUSTICE FOR ALL WHO ARE OPPRESSED. 7HE MADE KNOWN HIS WAYS TO MOSES, HIS ACTS TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. 8THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS, SLOW TO ANGER AND ABOUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE. 9HE WILL NOT ALWAYS ACCUSE, NOR WILL HE KEEP HIS ANGER FOREVER. 10HE DOES NOT DEAL WITH US ACCORDING TO OUR SINS, NOR REPAY US ACCORDING TO OUR INIQUITIES. 11FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH, SO GREAT IS HIS STEADFAST LOVE TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM; 12AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HE REMOVES OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US. 13AS A FATHER HAS COMPASSION FOR HIS CHILDREN, SO THE LORD HAS COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. 14FOR HE KNOWS HOW WE WERE MADE; HE REMEMBERS THAT WE ARE DUST.

¹⁵AS FOR MORTALS, THEIR DAYS ARE LIKE GRASS; THEY FLOURISH LIKE A FLOWER OF THE FIELD; ¹⁶FOR THE WIND PASSES OVER IT, AND IT IS GONE, AND ITS PLACE KNOWS IT NO MORE. ¹⁷BUT THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD IS FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING ON THOSE WHO FEAR HIM, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO CHILDREN'S CHILDREN, ¹⁸TO THOSE WHO KEEP HIS COVENANT AND REMEMBER TO DO HIS COMMANDMENTS. ¹⁹THE LORD HAS ESTABLISHED HIS THRONE IN THE HEAVENS, AND HIS KINGDOM RULES OVER ALL. ²⁰BLESS THE LORD, O YOU HIS ANGELS, YOU MIGHTY ONES WHO DO HIS BIDDING, OBEDIENT TO HIS SPOKEN WORD. ²¹BLESS THE LORD, ALL HIS HOSTS, HIS MINISTERS THAT DO HIS WILL. ²²BLESS THE LORD, ALL HIS WORKS, IN ALL PLACES OF HIS DOMINION. BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE + THE LORD'S PRAYER — PASTOR SEANN DUFFIN

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.

MAKING AN OFFERING

GIVING IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP AND A MEANS BY WHICH YOU CAN EMPOWER THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD. YOU CAN GIVE ONLINE RIGHT NOW AT WWW.BELLAIREUMC.ORG/GIVE, BY TEXTING THE WORD "GIVE" TO (832) 551-2425, OR BY MAILING YOUR GIFT TO BELLAIRE UMC 4417 BELLAIRE BLVD. BELLAIRE, TX 77401.

SONG OF PRAISE

SCRIPTURE + SERMON — HAILEY DEROME, PASTORAL INTERN

DANIEL 6

IT PLEASED DARIUS TO SET OVER THE KINGDOM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SATRAPS, STATIONED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE KINGDOM, ²AND OVER THEM THREE PRESIDENTS, INCLUDING DANIEL; TO THESE THE SATRAPS GAVE ACCOUNT, SO THAT THE KING MIGHT SUFFER NO LOSS. ³SOON DANIEL DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ABOVE ALL THE OTHER PRESIDENTS AND SATRAPS BECAUSE AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WAS IN HIM, AND THE KING PLANNED TO APPOINT HIM OVER THE WHOLE KINGDOM. ⁴SO THE PRESIDENTS AND THE SATRAPS TRIED TO FIND GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT AGAINST DANIEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE KINGDOM. BUT THEY COULD FIND NO GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT OR ANY CORRUPTION, BECAUSE HE WAS FAITHFUL, AND NO NEGLIGENCE OR CORRUPTION COULD BE FOUND IN HIM. ⁵THE MEN SAID, "WE SHALL NOT FIND ANY GROUND FOR COMPLAINT AGAINST THIS DANIEL UNLESS WE FIND IT IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAW OF HIS GOD."

6SO THE PRESIDENTS AND SATRAPS CONSPIRED AND CAME TO THE KING AND SAID TO HIM, "O KING DARIUS, LIVE FOREVER! 7ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF THE KINGDOM, THE PREFECTS AND THE SATRAPS, THE COUNSELORS AND THE GOVERNORS ARE AGREED THAT THE KING SHOULD ESTABLISH AN ORDINANCE AND ENFORCE AN INTERDICT, THAT WHOEVER PRAYS TO ANYONE, DIVINE OR HUMAN, FOR THIRTY DAYS, EXCEPT TO YOU, O KING, SHALL BE THROWN INTO A DEN OF LIONS. 8NOW, O KING, ESTABLISH THE INTERDICT AND SIGN THE DOCUMENT, SO THAT IT CANNOT BE CHANGED, ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE MEDES AND THE PERSIANS, WHICH CANNOT BE REVOKED." 9THEREFORE KING DARIUS SIGNED THE DOCUMENT AND INTERDICT.

¹⁰ALTHOUGH DANIEL KNEW THAT THE DOCUMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED, HE CONTINUED TO GO TO HIS HOUSE, WHICH HAD WINDOWS IN ITS UPPER ROOM OPEN TOWARD JERUSALEM, AND TO GET DOWN ON HIS KNEES THREE TIMES A DAY TO PRAY TO HIS GOD AND PRAISE

DANIEL 6 (CONTINUED)

HIM, JUST AS HE HAD DONE PREVIOUSLY. 11THE CONSPIRATORS CAME AND FOUND DANIEL PRAYING AND SEEKING MERCY BEFORE HIS GOD. 12THEN THEY APPROACHED THE KING AND SAID CONCERNING THE INTERDICT, "O KING! DID YOU NOT SIGN AN INTERDICT, THAT ANYONE WHO PRAYS TO ANYONE, DIVINE OR HUMAN, WITHIN THIRTY DAYS EXCEPT TO YOU, O KING, SHALL BE THROWN INTO A DEN OF LIONS?" THE KING ANSWERED, "THE THING STANDS FAST, ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS, WHICH CANNOT BE REVOKED." 13THEN THEY RESPONDED TO THE KING, "DANIEL, ONE OF THE EXILES FROM JUDAH, PAYS NO ATTENTION TO YOU, O KING, OR TO THE INTERDICT YOU HAVE SIGNED, BUT HE IS SAYING HIS PRAYERS THREE TIMES A DAY." 14WHEN THE KING HEARD THE CHARGE, HE WAS VERY MUCH DISTRESSED. HE WAS DETERMINED TO SAVE DANIEL, AND UNTIL THE SUN WENT DOWN HE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO RESCUE HIM.

¹⁵THEN THE CONSPIRATORS CAME TO THE KING AND SAID TO HIM, "KNOW, O KING, THAT IT IS A LAW OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS THAT NO INTERDICT OR ORDINANCE THAT THE KING ESTABLISHES CAN BE CHANGED." ¹⁶THEN THE KING GAVE THE COMMAND, AND DANIEL WAS BROUGHT AND THROWN INTO THE DEN OF LIONS. THE KING SAID TO DANIEL, "MAY YOUR GOD, WHOM YOU FAITHFULLY SERVE, DELIVER YOU!"

¹⁷A STONE WAS BROUGHT AND LAID ON THE MOUTH OF THE DEN, AND THE KING SEALED IT WITH HIS OWN SIGNET AND WITH THE SIGNET OF HIS LORDS, SO THAT NOTHING MIGHT BE CHANGED CONCERNING DANIEL. ¹⁸THEN THE KING WENT TO HIS PALACE AND SPENT THE NIGHT FASTING; NO FOOD WAS BROUGHT TO HIM, AND SLEEP FLED FROM HIM.

¹⁹THEN, AT BREAK OF DAY, THE KING GOT UP AND HURRIED TO THE DEN OF LIONS. ²⁰WHEN HE CAME NEAR THE DEN WHERE DANIEL WAS, HE CRIED OUT ANXIOUSLY TO DANIEL, "O DANIEL, SERVANT OF THE LIVING GOD, HAS YOUR GOD WHOM YOU FAITHFULLY SERVE BEEN ABLE TO DELIVER YOU FROM THE LIONS?" ²¹DANIEL THEN SAID TO THE KING, "O KING, LIVE FOREVER! ²²MY GOD SENT HIS ANGEL AND SHUT THE LIONS' MOUTHS SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT HURT ME, BECAUSE I WAS FOUND BLAMELESS BEFORE HIM; AND ALSO BEFORE YOU, O KING, I HAVE DONE NO WRONG." ²³THEN THE KING WAS EXCEEDINGLY GLAD AND COMMANDED THAT DANIEL BE TAKEN UP OUT OF THE DEN. SO DANIEL WAS TAKEN UP OUT OF THE DEN, AND NO KIND OF HARM WAS FOUND ON HIM, BECAUSE HE HAD TRUSTED IN HIS GOD. ²⁴THE KING GAVE A COMMAND, AND THOSE WHO HAD ACCUSED DANIEL WERE

DANIEL 6 (CONTINUED)

BROUGHT AND THROWN INTO THE DEN OF LIONS—THEY, THEIR CHILDREN, AND THEIR WIVES. BEFORE THEY REACHED THE BOTTOM OF THE DEN THE LIONS OVERPOWERED THEM AND BROKE ALL THEIR BONES IN PIECES.

²⁵THEN KING DARIUS WROTE TO ALL PEOPLES AND NATIONS OF EVERY LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD: "MAY YOU HAVE ABUNDANT PROSPERITY! ²⁶I MAKE A DECREE, THAT IN ALL MY ROYAL DOMINION PEOPLE SHOULD TREMBLE AND FEAR BEFORE THE GOD OF DANIEL: FOR HE IS THE LIVING GOD, ENDURING FOREVER. HIS KINGDOM SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED, AND HIS DOMINION HAS NO END. ²⁷HE DELIVERS AND RESCUES, HE WORKS SIGNS AND WONDERS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH; FOR HE HAS SAVED DANIEL FROM THE POWER OF THE LIONS." ²⁸SO THIS DANIEL PROSPERED DURING THE REIGN OF DARIUS AND THE REIGN OF CYRUS THE PERSIAN.

THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD. THANKS BE TO GOD.

STAY CONNECTED

PLEASE VISIT <u>WWW.BELLAIREUMC.ORG/STAYCONNECTED</u> TO SUBMIT PRAYER REQUESTS AND TO FIND A DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN FOR THIS WEEK.

SONG OF PRAISE + BENEDICTION

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH BELLAIRE UMC THIS MORNING!



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