

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, May 17th, 2020
Series: Believe
"Faithfulness"

Introductory Song: "O Breathe of Life, Come Sweeping Through Us"

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. The lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAjmYffP0us>

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|---|---|
| <p>1.O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
 Revive Thy church with life and power;
 O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
 And fit Thy church to meet this hour.</p> | <p>2.O wind of God, come bend us, break us,
 Till humbly we confess our need;
 Then in Thy tenderness remake us,
 Revive, restore, for this we plead.</p> |
| <p>3.O breath of love, come breathe within us,
 Renewing thought and will and heart;
 Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
 Revive Thy church in every part.</p> | <p>4. Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
 While harvest fields are vast and white?
 Revive, us Lord, the world is waiting,
 Equip Thy church to spread the light.</p> |

Call to Worship

Listen, you heavens, and I will speak;
 hear, you earth, the words of my mouth.
 Let my teaching fall like rain
 and my words descend like dew,
 like showers on new grass,
 like abundant rain on tender plants.

We will proclaim the name of the LORD.
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
He is the Rock, his works are perfect,
and all his ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong,
upright and just is he.

Prayer of Invocation

Praise be to our God – Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great faithfulness and mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

Almighty and loving God, in this time of worship silence all voices within our minds but your own.
 Help us to seek and be able to follow your will.

May our prayers be joined
 with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith,
 that together we may glorify your name
 and enjoy your fellowship forever.
 In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Hymn: "Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven"

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. The lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCRCZMmnwZQ>

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
 To His feet thy tribute bring.
 Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
 Who like me His praises sing:
 Praise Him, praise Him,
 Praise Him, praise Him,
 Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor
 To our fathers in distress;
 Praise Him still the same forever,
 Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
 Praise Him, praise Him,
 Praise Him, praise Him,
 Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us,
 Well our feeble frame He knows;
 In His hands He gently bears us,
 Rescues us from all our foes.
 Praise Him, praise Him,
 Praise Him, praise Him,
 Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him,
 Ye behold Him face to face;
 Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
 Dwellers all in time and space,
 Praise Him, praise Him,
 Praise Him, praise Him,
 Praise with us the God of grace.

Call to Confession

In repentance and rest is your salvation,
 in quietness and trust is your strength,
 but you would have none of it.
 Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;
 he rises to show you compassion.
 For the LORD is God of justice.
 Blessed are all who wait for him! (Isaiah 30:15,18)
 Let us confess our sins before him.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we have sinned,
 without considering how much you love us.
 You see our sins more clearly than we can ourselves.
 Lord, you know when we are indifferent to your Word, the Bible;
 how often we forget to pray;
 the times we come unwillingly to worship;
 and yet we turn to you when we are in trouble.
 Lord, you know when we are untruthful
 and when we think evil of others.
 You see our anger and unfairness to our friends.
 You know how hard it is for us to forgive.
 Forgive us and make us clean, so that we can obey your call
 to take up your cross and follow you.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Unison Assurance of Pardon

Let us read together the promise of God:

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:25-26, NIV)

The Lord’s Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.**

**For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen**

Responsive Reading Psalm 36

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

**Praise the LORD with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.**

Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully, and shout for joy.

**For the word of the LORD is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.**

The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.**

He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
he puts the deep into storehouses.

**Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the people of the world revere him.**

For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

**The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.**

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

**Ministry of Music: "Agnes Dei" with Michael W Smith & the First Dallas
Choir & Orchestra** (Click on the link below to listen to the Ministry of Music.)

https://youtu.be/db0t_NUq5bw

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 40:1-23

The Cupbearer and the Baker

1Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. **2**Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, **3**and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. **4**The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them.

After they had been in custody for some time, **5**each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

6 When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. **7** So he asked Pharaoh’s officials who were in custody with him in his master’s house, “Why do you look so sad today?”

8 “We both had dreams,” they answered, “but there is no one to interpret them.” Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.” **9** So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, “In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, **10** and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. **11** Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh’s cup and put the cup in his hand.” **12** “This is what it means,”

Joseph said to him. “The three branches are three days. **13** Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh’s cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. **14** But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. **15** I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.”

16 When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, “I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread. **17** In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head.” **18** “This is what it means,” Joseph said. “The three baskets are three days. **19** Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and impale your body on a pole. And the birds will eat away your flesh.”

20 Now the third day was Pharaoh’s birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: **21** He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand— **22** but he impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.

23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

Joseph Makes Himself Known **Genesis 45:4-7**

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! **5** And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. **6** For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. **7** But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Ancient Words" – Written by Lynn Deshazo

(Click on the link below to play the video. Lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vmTkXNpwzs>

Holy words long preserved
 For our walk in this world
 They resound with God's own heart
 O let the ancient words impart

Words of life words of hope
 Give us strength help us cope
 In this world where'er we roam
 Ancient words will guide us home

Chorus

Ancient words ever true
 Changing me and changing you
 We have come with open hearts
 O let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our faith
 Handed down to this age
 Came to us through sacrifice
 O heed the faithful words of Christ

Holy words long preserved
 For our walk in this world
 They resound with God's own heart
 O let the ancient words impart

Chorus x 4

Ancient words ever true
 Changing me changing you
 We have come with open hearts
 O let the ancient words impart

We have come with open hearts
 O let the ancient words impart

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God,
 let the words of your servant's mouth
 and the meditations of all our hearts
 be pleasing in your sight,

O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer.
Through Christ. **Amen.**

(Based on Psalm 19:14)

“Pictures of Faithfulness”

Believe Chapter 28

Our subject today is faithfulness and it is undoubtedly one of the most important of the Christian Virtues that we are looking at in this last ten week section of Believe. The writer of the Book of Proverbs certainly thought it was important and put it right up there alongside love. Listen to our Key Verse (Proverbs 3; Believe p. 451).

**3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.**

**4 Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man.**

Whenever the Bible says that you are to bind something around your neck and to tattoo it on your heart, you know that it has to be important.

I have entitled this sermon “Pictures of Faithfulness” and it is going to be exactly that. Vignettes of faithfulness that I hope will inspire you to want to see developed in you this virtue of faithfulness. The first is an Australian story of Bill and Gladly Forward. You can read about their story in an article that appeared in a Sunshine Coast magazine in 2013 or even better, you can watch it on a YouTube video called “What is Love” that went viral.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GH5n9IVZcM4>

Bill and Glad Forward – who celebrated 53 years of marriage in 2016 – have always been adventurous. Their work as missionaries has seen them travel the world together. But for the past twelve years, Bill has watched his “soulmate” slowly slipping away. Glad was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s in 2004 and Bill now dedicates all of his energy to caring for her. But it’s the way in which he does it that is perhaps most touching of all. When their regular walks became too difficult for Glad, her “Will” decided to get creative, and so “the bike chair” was born: an impressive blue beach cruiser with a special seat at the front.





Those who have seen their bike chair in action along the coast's waterfront promenades find it impossible not to smile at the joy on Bill's face as he rides with his "princess" – resplendent with a tiara atop her helmet.

Bill admits his and Glad's story did not start with love at first sight. "But once it hit, it hit, and that was it," he says. They first met on the beach at Burleigh Heads, just

south of Brisbane in the north eastern Australian province of Queensland, when Glad was eight and he was nine. Bill became best mates with Glad's older brother and admits he never gave a second thought to Glad until he was 17 years old.

"There came the day when we had a special church gathering and she was dressed in an aqua blue, A-line dress and BOOM, that was it. I just knew," Bill says. "She was no longer the little girl but she was now the girl and the only girlfriend I've ever had."

They were engaged when Bill was 20 and Glad was 19. Having both received a call to go to India, the couple tied the knot on May 18, 1963. The wedding was organized by their church and about 300 people shared in their special day. "I remember the absolute delight of finally having this lovely young lady as my bride. She was now my wife. I just felt exhilarated, really."

They thrived in their first home in India, where Bill managed a leprosy hospital and Glad cared for children in local orphanages. The next four decades saw many trials, tribulations and travels for Bill and Glad, from welcoming their first child – a daughter named Debbie – in India in 1965, to losing their son Robert 28 hours after birth, just a few years later. Their son Jeffrey was born in Australia in 1970, and work took them from India to Perth and then Adelaide.

Heading overseas again, Bill and Glad spent five years in and out of Romania, where every day was a struggle for survival in freezing conditions. Then there was Glad's diagnosis with breast cancer, which she was cleared of after surgery in the UK. Ever the optimist, Bill takes all of this in his stride. "It's these things that make today no big deal," he says.

In 2002, Bill started to notice signs in Glad that worried him. “The first indicator was she was unable to read down a page, she kept jumping lines,” he says. Next to go was her neat handwriting, then her spelling and ability to type. He describes the last twelve years as a slow grieving period. “One by one all these abilities have just been stripped away from her, to the point now where she can’t walk and she’s forgetting how to swallow,” he says.



While he receives assistance from part-time care givers, and Debbie spends every Thursday with her mum, some outsiders have suggested Bill move Glad into a home, but he believes their vows are stronger than this challenge. I’m not interested in ‘what’s in this for me.’” he says. “Everything is ‘what’s in this for Glad.’ At the end of the day, I’ll say, ‘sweetie, I’m here’, and she’ll say ‘oh, my Will’! And to me, that’s it. That’s enough. That I’m her anchor in the midst of all of this.



“We’ve had such a lovely life, we really have. Not easy, but so varied, so interesting. I wouldn’t change it for a bit. “I don’t feel the least bit burdened by the fact that from the moment she wakes up to the moment I put her to bed she’s dependent on me. I don’t find that a burden, that’s a privilege. “I just love who she is. She’s my soul mate. She’s always been and still is, and will always be.”

We don’t have to go to Australia’s Sunshine Coast for this inspiration. All I need to do is look around at the faces of people in this congregation. I think of Rick and Colleen Richardson, Joan Ferrier, Lois and Frank Cameron, Barb and Marg Driscoll, Audrey and Orville Ferrier, Karen and Stuart McKim, Johnny and Ann Savage, Jean and Carl Wright, Reiner and Jan Kuehn. If I were to go through and name the rest of the faithful people that I know in this congregation ... well, I would be naming all of you.

Our next story is a harder one. Faithfulness is like a coin that has two sides. On the one side is God's faithfulness to us. On the other, our attempt to be faithful to him. God is always faithful and has a firm hold on us and we do our best to hold onto him. But circumstances in life can cause us to lose our faith. Jonathan McComb knows how difficult it is too have a firm grip on faith during difficult times. On the Memorial Day weekend, June 2015, he and his family were staying at a house on the Blanco River in Wimberley, Texas. It was their first visit there and they spent the day playing in the river. But that night became a nightmare. Severe weather pounded the town and the Blanco River rose to a record 44 feet in mere minutes, knocking the A-frame home they were staying in with friends off its foundations and sending it down stream. One by one Jonathan lost his family – his wife Laura, his six year old son Andrew and his four year old daughter Leighton and friends. Jonathan said: "I was shaking so bad, one from just knowing what had happened and knowing I would never see my family and friends again." When asked six months later how he walked back into his old home with so many memories but a stark new normal, he replied: "There are so many good memories here, that if I went somewhere else where those memories weren't then I would lose them for a second time." But this house now holds the best memories of his life. And there is something more. "Now that they're all in heaven, without a doubt If I had doubts I don't know if I could be where I am today."



Jonathan McComb came out of that devastating night with a broken hip, broken ribs and a broken heart. But somehow he found the courage two weeks later to speak at the funeral service of his wife and two children. This is some of what he had to say that day at First Baptist Church of Corpus Christi, Texas. "People have been asking me how I'm doing and how I can stay positive in a time like this. I told them that I have been leaning on my



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family, my friends and most importantly my faith. I have no explanation about why such a tragic event like the flood takes place and why lives are lost. And **I know** that God is not going to give us any more than we can handle. **I know** that we are just here for a little while. **I know** this entire tragedy has been horrible and I've been upset. I've cried enough tears to fill that river a hundred times. But **I know** that I can't stay angry, confused, upset or to ask myself why, because I will ask that very question when my time comes and I am reunited with them in heaven. But trust me that will be the first question I ask." People, this is the vocabulary of faith. In that one paragraph I count three "**I knows**". Here is a man digging into his faith and saying – "I don't know why all this happened, but here is what I do know. I know God will not give us more than we can handle. I know I'll be reunited with my family. I know we are here just for a little while." This is the kind of vocabulary we all need. This is the kind of faithfulness we all need – a faithfulness to God and his Word.



I want to connect this with a Bible story – the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. I have referred to it a number of times over the last two years but it is so helpful for us on the topic of faithfulness. This story takes place 1600 years before the birth of Jesus. In some ways Joseph was brilliant and in some ways, well, he just wasn't the smartest pup in the litter. Joseph was big on dreams and God gave him, not just the dreams, but the interpretation of those dreams. Now if Joseph had been smarter, he would have kept those dreams to himself. Unfortunately, like people today who lay out their lives on Facebook for the whole world to see, Joseph had to blab about his dreams. After his first dream, he told his brothers about this great dream he had and

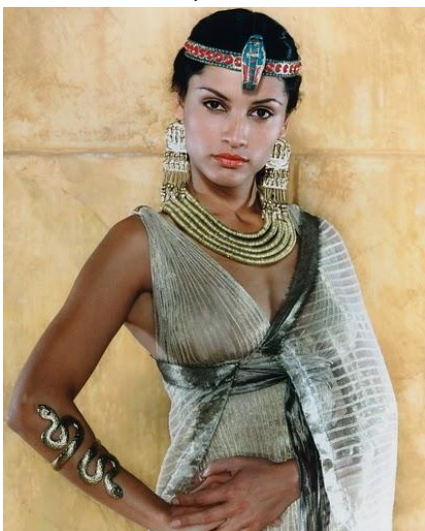


its interpretation, and how one day they were all going to bow down to him. That is not exactly how you build family relations. Their reaction was not positive. They already knew he was their father's favourite son and had been given a coat of many colours, so they were not predisposed towards Joseph in the first place. The next dream had different symbols but the same interpretation. He said: "Some day, every

member of this family is going to bow down to me.”

Well, that was the straw that broke the camel’s back. His brothers were furious and wanted to kill him, but their lust for money was greater than their lust for blood, so they sold him to a passing group of slave traders on their way to Egypt. I expected they figured they would never see him again. We pick up Joseph’s story in Genesis 39 (Believe p. 455): **1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt.** Poor Joseph was let down by his family. He was put down by his siblings. He was sold down the river as a slave. Now he is taken down to Egypt and he is sold on the auction block to the highest bidder. **Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.**

I am sure that life as a slave was discouraging for Joseph. He was probably homesick. He struggled with a new culture and a new language. We would expect that these verses next would describe his descent into despair. Instead, we read this: **2 The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.** Think of it.



Joseph started out with nothing and ends up as the attendant to one of the most powerful men in Egypt. The reason was that God was with Joseph. Joseph could not move anywhere outside the presence of the Lord. But notice that the presence of God did not guarantee the absence of problems. As we saw in the chapter on self-control, Potiphar’s wife threw a monkey-wrench into everything. As the original desperate housewife, she falsely accused Joseph of trying to rape her because he refused to go along with her constant requests to sleep with him. The coin of faithfulness has two sides. God is faithful to us and we seek to be faithful to him. But Joseph still ended up in prison.

In prison, God did not desert Joseph. **But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.** This was not because of Joseph's brilliance. It was because of God's favour. While in prison, God sent the King's cupbearer and baker into the prison. Guess what? They had both had dreams and we know that Joseph was big on dreams. God gave him the interpretation of those dreams. Just as Joseph said, the baker was killed, but the cupbearer was called back to his job. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him, but the last verse of Chapter 40 says: **23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.**

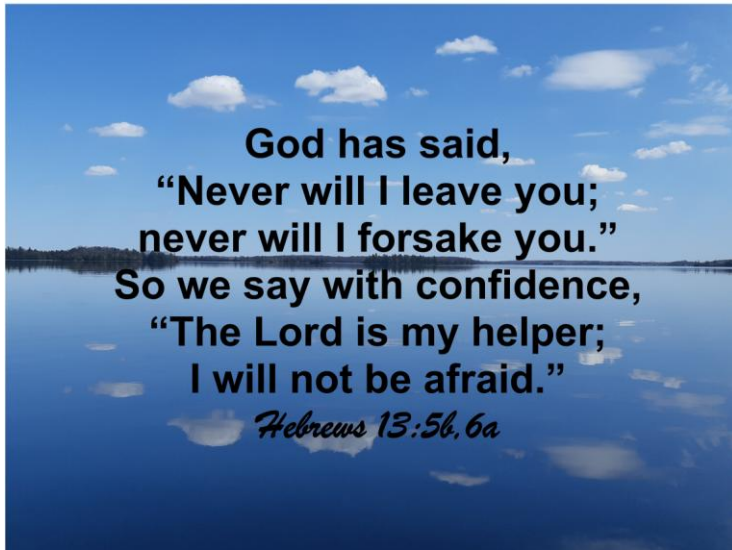


The time it takes us to skip from Genesis 40 to 41 can be measured in mere seconds, but it was a lot longer for Joseph. Genesis 41 begins: **1 When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream....** This was plenty of time for Joseph to grow cynical and lose his faith, but he did not. Did I mention to you that Joseph was big on dreams? Suddenly, here was an opportunity to put his God-given dream interpreting powers to work again and he found himself in the throne room of the most powerful man on the planet. To make a long story short, Joseph became second in command to Pharaoh. If you read the rest of the story, then you know why God took Joseph on this strange circuitous route. Here is what Joseph said to his brothers: **19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.** (Genesis 50) Notice those two words, "**but God**".

If the story of Joseph tells us anything, it tells us that we have a choice. We can focus on the harm we experience or we can focus on God's help. We can allow our pain to define us or we can allow our pain to refine us. We cannot keep problems from coming into our lives, but we can choose how we will respond. As people of

faith, we must be determined to filter everything through the love and faithfulness of a good God.

There are two simple principles that we need to keep in mind. And when I say simple, I mean simple. Anyone one can grasp them. The first is this: **God is with you**. There is only one reason that Joseph prospered – it was because God was



with him. Joseph did not prosper because he was smarter, better looking or wealthier than others. He prospered because God was with him. Did you know that God is with you? In Acts 17 we read: **27 he is not far from any one of us**. Does that include you? Of course it does. In Hebrews 13 it says this: **5 God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” 6 So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”** What

you need to do today is to lay claim to the nearness of God. And remember, the faithfulness of God is not measured in your feelings. It is measured in his promises. When you find yourself in your own Egypt, then lay claim to this promise in Zephaniah 3: **17 The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.** Just repeat this after me: “Wherever I am, God is with me.”

The second simple principle is this: **Just do the next right thing**. When we find ourselves in Egypt, we have no idea what the future holds. Joseph is our model on how to do the next right thing. When Mrs. Potiphar sexually harassed him and tried to seduce him, Joseph just did the next right thing. He refused and ran. In jail he did the next right thing. He became a model prisoner and fulfilled his duty to the chief jailer to the very best of his ability. He did the next right thing. When the cupbearer and the baker ended up in prison, they needed his help. He did the next right thing. He helped them. When the cupbearer did not keep his promise, Joseph kept his faith and did the next right thing. For two years he did the next right thing. When Pharaoh needed help, he did the next right thing. When Pharaoh promoted him, he did the next right thing and accepted it. When his brothers came to Egypt looking for food, he did the next right thing and forgave them. No matter what you are faced with, you

can choose to do the next right thing. “I’ll forgive somebody; I’ll pay the fine; I’ll show up for work; I’ll be a good student. I’ll do the next right thing.” People, that is all we can do. If you do that, God will bless you and prosper you. Be faithful to God and he will be faithful to you. **Amen.**

Hymn: “**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**” – Austin Stone Worship Live
(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Lyrics on screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eQ1oal44wU>

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

I could not love Thee, so blind and unfeeling,
Covenant promises fell not to me
Then without warning, desire, or deserving,
I found my Treasure, my pleasure in Thee

I have no merit to woo or delight Thee
I have no wisdom or power to employ
Yet in Thy mercy, how pleasing Thou find’st me
This is my pleasure that Thou art my joy

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer.

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspertthoffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer

Dear God, receive our offering.

Guide those who use it, that it may help to bring fullness of life to those who live in need and long for our care. **Amen.**

Prayers for the People by the People – please continue to pray for members of our congregation and others that you personally know of.

- For the leaders in our government (federal, provincial and municipal) to make responsible plans for reopening the economy and other activities that will not put our province at risk of further outbreaks of COVID-19.
- Those in hospital or needing medical attention other than for COVID-19 related needs.
- **Those on the front line in the fight against COVID-19, especially the nurses and PSW's in our congregations.** (Destiny Bowes, Glenda Gould, Connie Young, Tracey Laffine)
- **Those who are out of work and struggling financially to pay their bills.**
- **Joanna Savage:** Joanna had an embolization procedure on Thursday, May 14th done at Kingston General Hospital to block the blood supply of the inoperable tumor in her liver. This from her mother Marilyn: "The embolization procedure went ahead as planned and she was able to come home late in the afternoon. However, she has been having considerable pain, nausea and fever since the evening. They did say she may feel flu like for a few days - we'll be keeping close watch."
- **Stuart McKim – praise God for a good echocardiogram and consultation with his cardiologist. His pacemaker appears to be doing its job.**
- **Louise Burke**
- **Ann Savage**
- **Dave Crawley & Paul Thompson**
- **University and College Students** (Holly, Caitlin, Colleen, Jonathan, Liam, Caleb and Issac)
- **Angus Funston** - We received this update from his grandmother Carole Miller - Good News! Angus' enzyme levels have come down. They are not at normal but they are coming down.
- **Shut-ins and Nursing Homes** (Elva Fair, Audrey Ferrier, Germaine Vanderklok, June O'Hara, Gwen Travis, Lyn Harrington, Bing Jeun, Jo Mott, Ruth McTavish)
- **Pray especially for Carolina Suites** (at least 35 cases & 4 deaths). **Pray for Lyn Harrington** (Shelagh Stephen's mother) **and Nellie Larabie** (Marlene Larabie's mother-in-law) **are in Carolina Suites. Thankfully there have been no new cases since April 17th.**
- **St. Andrew's – Thanks to our Board of Managers for all the work they do handling finances, repairing our church and maintaining the grounds even though we can't worship there.**

- **St. Andrew's Session – give our elders wisdom as they seek to provide leadership and pastoral oversight in these difficult times.**
- **Rick & Colleen Richardson and their daughter Deborah Richardson.**
- **Richard Hendry**
- **Larry Palmer and his family as he grieves the loss of his wife Joan, who passed away the evening of April 22nd. A Celebration of Life has been postponed to a later date. Larry and Joan were regular participants in Alpha this past fall.**
- **Adam Dowdall – for continued stabilization of his insulin levels and support for his emotion state, for him to become more confident.**

Closing Hymn:

“Go Now In Peace”

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Lyrics will be displayed on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TKSLqIAcM>

Go now in peace, never be afraid
 God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day
 Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
 Know God will guide you in all you do.

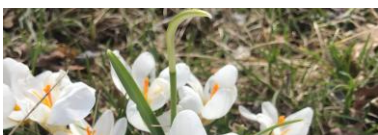
Go now in love, and show you believe.
 Reach out to others so all the world can see.
 God will there watching from above.
 Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Benediction

If the Lord is God, go now, and follow him,
 and do not be tempted to share your loyalty with other gods.
 Stay true to the gospel that has been revealed to you in Jesus.
 Call on the name of the Lord,
 tell of God's salvation from day to day,
 and live in righteousness and truth.

And may God bring you grace and peace;
 May Christ Jesus heal you and raise you up,
 and may the Holy Spirit's fiery glory strengthen your hearts.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.



On Palm Sunday and on Easter Sunday the Churches of
 Perth Rang Their Bells
 (Click on the link below to play)

[St. Andrew's Perth- Bell Ringing](#) (short version) [St. John's Perth-Bell Ringing](#) (short version) [St. James Perth - Bell Ringing](#) (short version)

St. Andrew's and St. John's are continuing the Sunday 12-12:10 pm ringing of the bells as a reminder of the Easter Season as well as a call to pray for all aspects of the current crisis and everyone affected. You are encouraged to do the same!