

September 27, 2020

Prelude

Jordan Klotz

Words of Welcome

Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright

You are invited to join us in lighting a candle at home.

Opening Prayer

Holy One, our source of life and love, build up our faith. May we dare to believe things can be done differently. May we be willing to take necessary risks for others. May we persevere through our mistakes and missteps. With joy as our companion and wisdom as our guide, we place our trust in you. Amen.

Hymn

NCH # 22, v. 1 & 4

Sing Praise to God Who Has Shaped and Sustains All Creation

Sing praise to God, who has shaped
and sustains all creation!

Sing praise, my soul, in profound and
complete adoration!

Gladsome rejoice-organ and trumpet
and voice-
joining God's great congregation.

Sing praise, my soul, the great name of
your high God commending.

All that have life and breath join you,
their notes sweetly blending.

God is your light! Soul, ever keep
this in sight:

amen, amen never ending.

Time for Children

The Kallenberg Family

Contemporary Testimony

Dr. Aisha Ahmad, Assoc. Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, twitter thread on 9.20.20

The 6 month mark in any sustained crisis is always difficult. We have all adjusted to this "new normal", but might now feel like we're running out of steam. Yet, at best, we are only 1/3 the way through this marathon. How can we keep going?

First, in my experience, this is a very normal time to struggle or slump. I *always* hit a wall 6 months into a tough assignment in a disaster zone. The desire to "get away" or "make it stop" is intense. I've done this many times, and at 6 months, it's like clockwork.

This time, our crisis is global and there is nowhere to run. That's OK. I've had to power through that 6 month hump before and there is life on the other side. Right now, it feels like we looking ahead at long, dark wintery tunnel. But it's not going to be like that.

Rather, this is our next major adaptation phase. We've already re-learned how to do groceries, host meetings, and even teach classes. And we have found new ways to be happy and have fun. But as the days get shorter and colder, we need to be ready to innovate again.

This is my first pandemic, but not my first 6 month wall. So, what can I share to help you? First, the wall is real and normal. And frankly, it's not productive to try to ram your head through it. It will break naturally in about 4-6 weeks if you ride it out.

Of course, there are things we have to do. Work. Teach. Cook. Exercise. But just don't expect to be sparkingly happy or wildly creative in the middle of your wall. Right now, if you can meet you obligations and be kind to your loved ones, you get an A+

... Take heart. We have navigated a harrowing global disaster for 6 months, with resourcefulness & courage. We have already found new ways to live, love, and be happy under these rough conditions. A miracle & a marvel. This is hard proof that we have what it takes to keep going.

Scriptural Testimony

Genesis 9: 8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.* I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living

creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Words of Response

May the living word of God speak to us through these ancient words of scripture. Amen.

Sermon

Hymn

When the Waves Are Crashing

W&S #3144

3144 When the Waves Are Crashing

1. When the waves are crash-ing and my faith is drown-ing, though I
2. When dark clouds have gath-ered and my love is bat-tered, though I

may for-get you, hold me, Lord. When the
may de-sert you, hold me, Lord. Faith may

cliffs are steep-est and my hope is weak-est, though I
be e - ter - nal, hope will last for - ev - er; great - er

fail to trust you, hold me, Lord. ___
still is love that holds me, Lord. ___

WORDS: Gareth Hill
MUSIC: Jackson Henry

BLUE MOOD
66.63 D

Words © 2007 Hope Publishing Company; music © 2011 Jackson Henry

Investing in the Kin-dom of God

In the middle of all that hurts, the heart of God manifests among us. Through the sharing of our resources. In shared laughter and collective weeping. In practices of care and connection. The love of God makes a way for us through the labyrinth of this life. With gratitude, let us bring our offerings to God and one another.

You may share your offering on our website, www.CCPrinceton.org or by mail to 50 Walnut Lane. Princeton, NJ 08540.

Let us bring our offerings before God. Amen.

Hymn

Courage My Soul, The Storm Is Passing Over (v. 1, 3 & 4)

♩ = 105

1. O cour - age, my soul, and let us jour - ney on, For
2. O billows roll - ing high, and thun - der shakes the ground, The
3. The stars have dis - ap - peared, and dist - ant lights are dim, My
4. Now soon we shall reach the dist - ant shin - ing shore, Then

tho' the night is dark, it won't be ver - y long. O
light - nings flash, and tem - pest all a - round, But
soul is filled with fears, the seas are break - ing in. I
free from all the storms, we'll rest for - ev - er - more. And

thanks be to God, the morn - ing light ap - pears, And the storm is pass - ing o - ver, Hal - le -
Jesus walks the sea and calms the ang - ry waves, And the storm is pass - ing o - ver, Hal - le -
hear the Mas - ter cry, "Be not a - fraid, 'tis I," And the storm is pass - ing o - ver, Hal - le -
safe with - in the veil, we'll furl the riv - en sail, And the storm will all be o - ver, Hal - le -

Refrain

- lu - jah!
- lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! The storm is pass - ing o - ver, Hal - le - lu - jah!
- lu - jah!
- lu - jah!

Benediction