



Courage

WHITNEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 27, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Rev. Christina Thompson

Welcome

Welcome to worship this morning. I am Rev. Christina Thompson, Pastor here at Whitney United Methodist Church and I am so glad you are worshipping with us this morning. We are exploring how we find Finding Peace in an anxious world by finding courage to change the things we can. May we indeed find the peace of God through our worship this morning.

Opening thoughts

Hear these words calling us to worship—as we ponder what it means to have courage.

From the hymn Give to the Winds Thy Fears.

*Give to the winds thy fears, hope and be undismayed;
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears; God shall lift up thy head.*

*Leave to God's sov'reign sway to choose and to command,
so shalt thou wond'ring own His way, how wise, how strong His hand!*

*Far, far above thy thought His counsel shall appear,
when fully He the work hath wrought, that caused thy needless fear.*

*Let us in life, in death, Thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our latest breath, Thy love and guardian care.*

From the Hymn *Give to the Wind Thy Fears*, by Paul Gerhardt, 1653, translated by John Wesley, 1739. Taken from *The United Methodist Hymnal*, Copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

Lighting the candle

As we begin our worship this morning, I invite you to light your candle as a reminder that God hears our sighs, counts our tears and shall lift up our heads. May this light remind us of that truth.

Prayer Centering us for worship

O God, we want to be able to give to the wind all of our fears. We want to be hopeful and courageous and not be dismayed by all that is happening in the world. But God we confess, how hard it is really is. There seem to be so many waves and clouds and storms that just keep coming and coming. If it is not a pandemic, it is the struggle for racial justice, and then it is hurricanes and fires and smoke. Every morning we wonder what's next.

Help us in this time of worship to wait on you and to breathe in your love and your grace. Help us to leave in your power the way forward and know that you will choose and

command. May in this day we know the steadfast truth that we can live into your love and guardian care. Amen

Written by Rev. Christina Thompson, based on the hymn *Give to the Wind Thy Fe* by Paul Gerhardt, 1653, translated by John Wesley, 1739

Opening Song

Andy/Svetlana
God of Grace and God of Glory #577. V. 1, 3, 4

CCLI Song # 43107

Harry Emerson Fosdick | John Hughes

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Verse 1

God of grace and God of glory
On Thy people pour Thy power
Crown Thine ancient church's story
Bring her bud to glorious flower
Grant us wisdom grant us courage
For the facing of this hour
For the facing of this hour

Verse 3

Cure Thy children's warring madness
Bend our pride to Thy control
Shame our wanton selfish gladness
Rich in things and poor in soul
Grant us wisdom grant us courage
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal

Verse 4

Set our feet on lofty places
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces
In the fight to set men free
Grant us wisdom grant us courage
That we fail not man nor Thee
That we fail not man nor Thee

Children's Moment

Kimberly Gardner

Scripture

Proverbs 4:20-27

Sermon

Courage

Rev Christina

Anthem—

6 Ways to Sunday - band

You Never Let Go by Matt Redman

CCLI Song # 4674166

Beth Redman | Matt Redman

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Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
Your perfect love is casting out fear.
And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life,

I won't turn back, I know You are near.
And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me.
And if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

Oh no, You never let go,
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go,
In every high and every low Oh no, You never let go,
Lord, You never let go of me.

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare.
And there will be an end to these troubles. But until that day comes,

We'll live to know You here on the earth.
And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me.
And if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

Oh no, You never let go,
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go,
In every high and every low Oh no, You never let go,
Lord, You never let go of me.

Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on

And there will be an end to these troubles, but until that day comes,
Still I will praise You, Still I will praise You,
Singin' Oh no, You never let go, Through the calm and through the storm

Oh no, You never let go,
In every high and every low Oh no, You never let go,
Lord, You never let go of me.
Singin' Oh no, You never let go,
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go,
In every high and every low Oh no, You never let go,
Lord, You never let go of me.

Response---- Kataphatic Prayer (positive association of who God is, using language as a tool) (Spiritual Practice)

Kataphatic prayer incorporates words, images, or songs to speak to God. This prayer uses language as a tool to help us connect to God.

Name for God: Pick a word to name God (God, mother, Abba, Lord, Creator, Jesus, refuge, etc.) Then silently take a few moments to picture God in relation to that word. Repeat that word in your head.

God is . . . : Take a moment to consider how God is like your word. For example, if you chose Mother. How is God like a mother? What do you see? What does it mean for God to be motherly? How is God similar to a female parent?

God is not . . . : Then ponder how God is not like your word. God is not mother. Because language is limited, we recognize that God is not a human woman. God does not give birth and feed using God's body as a source of substance. Sit with this idea that God is not mother.

Double Negative . . . : God is not NOT your word. God is not Not a mother. God is like a mother. God is not like a mother. God is beyond our understanding and yet we use limited language skills to seek a better understanding of who God is. This allows us to consider the both/and of this paradox.

Welcoming prayer is from chapter 2 of *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* copy write 2020 United Methodist Women. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

O Lord, hear our prayers:

Prayers for hope for those who feel hopeless

Prayers for healing for those who need healing

Prayers for jobs for those who are jobless

Prayers for community for those who feel lonely

Prayers for peace for those whose lives are filled with conflict.

Prayers for understanding for those seeking to be understood.

Prayers for comfort those who grieve.

Prayers for food for those who hunger.

Prayers for shelter for those who are homeless.

Prayers for clean water for those whose waters are contaminated

Prayers for rain for those who live in drought.

Prayers for a time of drying for those who are facing too much rain.

Prayers for freedom for those who live under dictatorships.

Prayers for wisdom for our leaders.

Prayers for spiritual growth and health for our churches.

Prayers for your Kingdom to reign here on earth.

Amen.

— written by Rev Abi, and posted on **RevGalBlogPals**

blog. <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/> She blogs at the **Long and Winding Road**.

<http://vicarofwadley.blogspot.ca/>

The Lord's Prayer

Dewey Knowles

Offering

What is our response to God who has acted mightily on our behalf, who has blessed us with abundance? How will we show our thanks to the One who gives us courage? May our offerings be expressions of gratitude.

You can give of your tithes and offerings by sending in a check to the church by mail, or giving electronically through our website.

Let us pray over the offerings that will be collected. Thank you God for guiding us through life and for the abundance we have enjoyed. Thank you for blessing us far beyond our own work. We are grateful for all we have learned when we dared to

trust you in difficult times. Use our offerings to prosper your mission among us and beyond us. In your name we pray. Amen

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Closing Hymn

6 Ways to Sunday - band

Standing on the Promises #374 v. 1, 2, 4

CCLI Song # 31803

Russell Kelso Carter

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Verse 1

Standing on the promises of Christ my King
Through eternal ages let His praises ring
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing
Standing on the promises of God

Chorus

Standing standing
Standing on the promises of God my Savior
Standing standing
I'm standing on the promises of God

Verse 2

Standing on the promises that cannot fail
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail
By the living Word of God I shall prevail
Standing on the promises of God

Chorus

Verse 3

Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect present cleansing in the blood for me
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free
Standing on the promises of God

Chorus

Verse 4

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's Sword
Standing on the promises of God

Chorus

Sending Forth

May we find the courage to change the things we can, trusting God to guide us as we do so.

Passing the Peace

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you
And also with you

Invitation to next week

I invite you to join us next week as we continue Finding Peace in an Anxious World based on the serenity Prayer. Next week we will explore Wisdom.

After worship, you are invited to our virtual coffee hour on zoom. The link to join us is in the email you received with the links to this service. There are also instructions on this screen. We will gather about 10:45 am.

At 11:15 we will gather to have a study on finding Courage.

You are also invited to join us on our Facebook Group - [Whitney United Methodist Church Group](#) to chat about the service. You can join the conversation anytime.

There are many ways to connect with us even as we are physically distancing.

Our radio program Reach Out and Trust broadcasts on KBXL 94.1 FM on Sunday mornings at 7:30 am and 11:30 am.

May God be with us until we meet again.

Worship & Media Teams

Rev. Christina Thompson, Pastor

Kimberly Gardner, Family Life Director

Andy Maddox, Choir Director

Johnna Dunten, Interim Administrative Assistant

Kevin Daniel, Six Ways to Sunday Leader

Bert Allen

Nicole Fournier

Stewart Gardner

Rich Keefe

Mary Kinzle

Andy Maddox

Svetlana Maddox

Becky Platt

Dianna Shea

Sarah Spencer

Coral Swofford

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Rich Keefe

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Opening Thought

*From the Hymn Give to the Wind Thy Fears, by Paul Gerhardt, 1653,
translated by John Wesley, 1739. Taken from The United Methodist*

Hymnal,

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Prayer Centering for Worship

*Written by Rev. Christina Thompson, based on the hymn Give to the Wind
Thy Fears,*

by Paul Gerhardt, 1653, translated by John Wesley, 1739

Response Spiritual Practice

*Welcoming prayer is from chapter 2 of Finding Peace in an Anxious World
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Prayers of the People

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