

Macland Presbyterian Church

March 29, 2020

“Why Worry”



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March 29, 2020
10:00 a.m.

(BELLS RINGING)

Pastor Jones: WELCOME TO MACLAND PRESBYTERIAN. AND WE ARE HERE TO WORSHIP TODAY. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE ABLE TO JOIN US. AND FOR THE BEGINNING, IT'S NOT QUITE A DUET, IT'S MORE A SOLO AND ACCOMPANIMENT. WE HAVE NOAH SMITH AND "REMEMBRANCES."

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Pastor Jones: FRIENDS, LET US JOIN TOGETHER IN THE CALL TO WORSHIP.
(PRINTED IN YOUR BULLETIN)

John Polacheck: THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION
(PRINTED IN YOUR BULLETIN.)

(PRAYER OF CONFESSION)
(PRINTED IN YOUR BULLETIN)

(ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS)
(PRINTED IN YOUR BULLETIN)

Pastor Jones: ALL RIGHT. SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST WITH THOSE WHO ARE WITH YOU AT HOME AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD.

(PASSING OF THE PEACE)

Pastor Jones: OKAY. IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN IN YOUTH GROUP WITH ME OVER 30 YEARS, YOU KNOW THIS SONG, AND SO WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TO SING ALONG. CAROL IS GOING TO BE WITH ME. THERE IS A GUYS' PART AND A GIRLS' PART, BUT THEN THE PART THAT EVERYBODY DOES TOGETHER, LIKE TO START WITH THAT.

(PRINTED IN YOUR BULLETIN)

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Pastor Jones: OKAY. SO FOR OUR CHILDREN'S TIME TOGETHER, WE ARE GOING TO READ FROM ISAIAH 40. AND SO I HAVE A PART FOR YOU, AND I'LL SHOW YOU IN A MINUTE. BUT FIRST, THE WORD OF THE LORD, ISAIAH 40, BEGINNING WITH VERSE 28:

1 "HAVE YOU NOT KNOWN, HAVE YOU NOT HEARD, THE LORD IS THE
2 EVERLASTING GOD, THE CREATOR OF THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. HE
3 DOES NOT FAINT OR GROW WEARY; HIS UNDERSTANDING IS
4 UNSEARCHABLE.
5 HE GIVES POWER TO THE FAINT AND STRENGTHENS THE
6 POWERLESS. EVEN YOUTH WILL FAINT AND BE WEARY AND THE
7 YOUNG WILL FALL EXHAUSTED, BUT THOSE WHO WAIT FOR THE
8 LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY SHALL MOUNT UP
9 WITH WINGS LIKE EAGLES. THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY.
10 THEY SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT."

11 (CHILDREN'S MESSAGE)

12 Pastor Jones: SO I WANT TO TELL YOU ONE OF MY FAVORITE
13 STORIES, AND I THINK THIS IS HELPFUL FOR NOW AND PROBABLY
14 FOR WHAT YOU'RE FEELING LIKE AT HOME.
15 IT'S ABOUT A GROUP OF DUCKS, AND THE DUCKS WENT TO
16 CHURCH. AND THEY WENT TO CHURCH AND THEY ALL GATHERED
17 TOGETHER AND IT WAS FULL, FULL OF DUCKS. IT WAS WALL TO
18 WALL DOWN. AND THEY WERE SINGING "FAITH OF OUR WADDLERS"
19 AND ALL OF THE FAVORITE DUCK HYMNS. AND THEN WHEN THE
20 PREACHER WOULD START, HE READ THAT PASSAGE ABOUT HOW WE
21 HAVE ALL BEEN GIVEN WINGS LIKE EAGLES.
22 AND THEY ALL SHOUTED BACK "AMEN." SO THAT'S YOUR PART.
23 SO THE PREACHER SAID, "WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN WINGS LIKE
24 EAGLES."

25 Congregation: (AMEN.)

Pastor Jones: WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN WINGS TO FLY HIGH IN
THE SKY.

Congregation: (AMEN.)

Pastor Jones: WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN WINGS TO SOAR IN THE
CLOUDS.

Congregation: (AMEN.)

Pastor Jones: AND HE WENT ON AND ON LIKE THAT FOR AN
HOUR, OVER AND OVER AGAIN ABOUT THE POWER OF WINGS AND
THE POWER OF FLIGHT AND THEY ALL SHOUTED OUT...

Congregation: (AMEN.)

Pastor Jones: THEN THE PROBLEM WAS THAT AFTER CHURCH
WAS OVER, THEY ALL WADDLED HOME.
SO THERE THEY WERE. THEY TALKED ABOUT THE BEAUTY OF
FLYING, BUT THEN THEY JUST WALKED HOME.
YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN WINGS LIKE EAGLES FOR A PURPOSE.

1 AND I KNOW IF YOU'RE STUCK AT HOME, AND ESPECIALLY OUR
2 KIDS, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE TRAPPED AND THIS IS NOT WHAT
3 YOUR LIFE IS SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE.
4 AND THAT'S OKAY BECAUSE IT'S JUST FOR NOW.
5 BUT BE PREPARED SO THAT WHEN THIS IS OVER YOU CAN GET
6 BACK TO DOING WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING AND BEING
7 WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SO THAT YOU CAN SOAR.
8 REMEMBER YOUR PURPOSE, AND IT'S NOT THIS LOCKDOWN
9 PURPOSE.
10 IT'S JUST FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AND THEN WE WILL
11 SOAR. AND JUST SO YOU KNOW, EVEN THOUGH IT'S A LITTLE
12 LONELY HERE, WE BROUGHT SOME OF YOUR FRIENDS, AND SO
13 THEY'RE SITTING HERE ON THE FRONT ROW.

8 (PASTORAL PRAYER)

9 Pastor Jones: LET'S HAVE A TIME OF PRAYER TOGETHER.
10 AND I WANT YOU TO, IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE, AND THOSE OF
11 YOU WHO ARE THERE ON FACEBOOK, IF YOU WANT TO POST A
12 PRAYER CONCERN, YOU CAN WRITE IT IN THERE AND IT WILL
13 SHOW UP.
14 SO FEEL FREE TO DO THAT. I WANT TO LIFT UP JUST A
15 COUPLE.
16 FREIDA ST. GERMAIN WAS IN THE HOSPITAL THIS WEEK WITH
17 ARRHYTHMIA, AND SO SHE IS HOME AND WE'RE GLAD FOR THAT.
18 AND THEN CAROL AND I TALKED, AND WE ARE JUST REALLY
19 CONCERNED AND WANT TO LIFT UP TO YOU THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE
20 GETTING OVERLOOKED.
21 AND I KNOW THERE IS A LOT OF SCARE WITH THE VIRUS, BUT
22 THERE ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING LAID OFF, SOME WHO
23 I HAVE TALKED TO.
24 THERE ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW, WHO HAVE BEEN
25 LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK, AND WHO NOW DON'T KNOW HOW
THAT'S GOING TO GO.
AND CAROL AND I HAVE A CONCERN FOR THOSE CHILDREN THAT
HOME IS NOT A SAFE PLACE. AND THEY WERE SAFE WHEN THEY
WENT TO SCHOOL AND THEY'RE NOT SAFE NOW, AND THEY'RE
TRAPPED. AND THEN THOSE WHO MAYBE ARE THE ONES THAT ARE
A THREAT TO THEM ARE NOW HOME WITH THEM.
AND SO LET'S NOT OVERLOOK THE OVERLOOKED.
SO IF YOU WILL LIST YOUR JOYS OR CONCERNS AND JUST POST
THEM THERE WE'LL HAVE A TIME OF SILENCE HERE.
LET US PRAY TOGETHER.

23 (SILENT PRAYER)

24 Pastor Jones: LET US PRAY: GOD, YOU HEAR THE SPOKEN
25 AND THE UNSPOKEN.
YOU HEAR US AS A CONGREGATION, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE SPREAD
APART.

1 YOU SEE THE SEEN AND THE UNSEEN AND YOU KNOW THOSE WHO
2 ARE SUFFERING THROUGH THIS, WHETHER IT BE THROUGH ILLNESS
3 OR CHANGE IN LIFE OR FROM BEING AT RISK.
4 SO, GOD, WE LIFT THEM UP TO YOU TOGETHER.
5 YOU HEAR OUR PRAYERS, OH, LORD. AMEN.

6 (SCRIPTURE)

7 Pastor Jones: OUR PASSAGE IS MATTHEW 6.
8 AND THIS SEEMED AN APPROPRIATE ONE FOR TODAY AND TIME, SO
9 LISTEN FOR A WORD FROM GOD, NOT JUST A WORD FROM GOD BUT
10 A WORD FROM GOD FOR YOU.
11 "THEREFORE I TELL YOU, DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR LIFE, WHAT
12 YOU WILL EAT OR WHAT YOU WILL DRINK, OR ABOUT YOUR BODY,
13 OR WHAT YOU WILL WEAR.
14 IS NOT LIFE MORE THAN FOOD, AND THE BODY MORE THAN
15 CLOTHING? LOOK AT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR; THEY NEITHER SOW
16 NOR REAP NOR GATHER INTO BARNS, AND YET YOUR HEAVENLY
17 FATHER FEEDS THEM.
18 ARE YOU NOT OF MORE VALUE THAN THEY?
19 AND CAN ANY ONE OF YOU BY WORRYING ADD A SINGLE HOUR TO
20 YOUR SPAN OF LIFE?
21 AND WHY DO YOU WORRY ABOUT CLOTHING? CONSIDER THE LILIES
22 OF THE FIELD, HOW THEY GROW; THEY NEITHER TOIL NOR SPIN,
23 YET I TELL YOU, EVEN SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY WAS NOT
24 CLOTHED LIKE ONE OF THESE.
25 BUT IF GOD SO CLOTHED THE GRASS OF THE FIELD, WHICH IS
ALIVE TODAY AND TOMORROW IS THROWN INTO THE OVEN, WILL HE
NOT MUCH MORE CLOTHE YOU -- YOU OF LITTLE FAITH?
THEREFORE DO NOT WORRY, SAYING, WHAT WE WILL EAT OR DRINK
OR WHAT WILL WE WEAR? DO NOT WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW FOR
TOMORROW WILL BRING WORRIES OF ITS OWN. TODAY'S TROUBLE
IS ENOUGH FOR TODAY."
FRIENDS, THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD.

6 (SERMON)

7 Pastor Jones: LIKE ALL OF YOU, I HAVE HAD A LOT OF
8 TIME TO THINK, TO GET INTO MY OWN THOUGHTS IN MY OWN
9 HEAD, AND I REALLY HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE GOAL OF BEING VERY
10 PEACEFUL, BEING A VERY PEACEFUL SOUL.
11 SO I STUDIED THE ZEN TYPE gurus, THE MEDITATIVE TYPES,
12 AND I FOUND THAT TO BE PEACEFUL, YOU HAVE TO TALK LIKE
13 THIS.
14 AND YOU SAY SENTENCES THAT TAKE LONG PAUSES SO THAT YOU
15 WONDER WHAT THE NEXT WORD IS.
16 AND I FOUND THAT THEY EVEN SIT -- THEY EVEN SIT LIKE THIS
17 AND MEDITATE.
18 AND YOU CAN TRY THIS AT HOME, THOUGH I DON'T RECOMMEND
19 IT.

1 SO, I TRIED SITTING AND I TRIED MEDITATING AND I TRIED
BEING PEACEFUL.
2 AND I TRIED TALKING LIKE THIS.
3 BUT IF YOU KNOW ME, YOU KNOW THAT THIS DOESN'T WORK FOR
ME ANY MORE THAN, WELL, THIS WORKS FOR ME.
4 SO, I'M GOING TO TALK TO YOU, WHOSE MINDS ARE FULL AND
WHO ARE DEALING WITH LOTS OF THOUGHTS. AND WHAT I WANT
5 TO CHALLENGE YOU TODAY -- AND I THINK PART OF MEDITATION
IS BEING ABLE TO BE COMFORTABLE WHEN YOU'RE
UNCOMFORTABLE. SO I'M GOING TO TRY AND GIVE YOU SOME
6 HELP ON DOING THAT. I'M GOING TO TRY AND GIVE YOU SOME
HELP IN THINKING ABOUT THIS PASSAGE AND THINKING ABOUT
7 OUR SITUATION AND JUST GIVE YOU SOME WHAT I THINK TO BE
PRAGMATIC GOALS FOR THIS TIME.
8 AND SO THE FIRST ONE IS, LIKE SITTING IN A MEDITATIVE
PLACE OR LIKE TRYING TO BE STILL AND MEDITATE, THE
9 CHALLENGE IS NOT TO BE COMFORTABLE BUT TO BE COMFORTABLE
BEING UNCOMFORTABLE. IT'S NOT TO STOP YOUR THOUGHTS, BUT
10 TO ACCEPT THEM AND LET THEM COME, BUT LET THEM GO.
BECAUSE IF YOU FIGHT THEM, THEY WILL LIVE HERE INSTEAD OF
11 JUST GOING OUT OF HERE.
SO BE OKAY WITH NOT BEING OKAY.
12 BE COMFORTABLE WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE. SEE, THIS BY
NATURE, THIS WHOLE VIRUS, THE SHUTDOWN, ALL THAT'S GOING
13 ON, IS BY DEFINITION TRAUMATIC.
A TRAUMA IS ANY EXPERIENCE THAT YOU HAVE OR ANY THOUGHT
14 OR IMAGINATION THAT YOU CAN'T PROCESS.
IT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HAVE AN EXPERIENCE AND YOU GO, OKAY,
15 WELL, THIS IS JUST LIKE THAT.
THIS IS NOT LIKE ANYTHING, AND
16 THEREFORE IT'S TRAUMATIC.
YOU CAN'T GO WITH THE EXPERIENCES THAT YOU'RE HAVING AND
17 THAT WE'RE HAVING AS PEOPLE AND THAT WE'RE HAVING AS A
WORLD, AND GO, OH, YEAH, I REMEMBER THIS, THIS WAS LIKE
18 THAT, AND SO THEREFORE IT IS TRAUMATIC.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE PROBLEMS.
19 BUT IF YOU PAY ATTENTION, LIFE IS TRAUMATIC
FROM THE DAY YOU WERE BORN. I -- I SAY TO NATE ALL THE
20 TIME AND IT EMBARRASSES HIM, I SAY, YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT
YOU LOOKED LIKE WHEN YOU WERE BORN? YOU LOOKED LIKE THIS
21 (PASTOR DEMONSTRATES.) IT WAS TOUGH.
THE DAY YOU WERE BORN WAS TOUGH ON EVERYBODY.
22 IT WAS TOUGH ON MOM. IT WAS TOUGH ON YOU.
EVERY STAGE OF LIFE CAN BE TOUGH, AND YOU GROW TO YOUR
23 GREATEST INCOMPETENCE. AS SOON AS YOU GET A HANDLE ON
LIFE, EITHER LIFE CHANGES OR YOU CHANGE, AND WHAT WORKED
24 BEFORE DOESN'T WORK NOW. SO BE COMFORTABLE WITH BEING
UNCOMFORTABLE BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE THAT
25 EVERY STAGE OF LIFE.
SECOND, BE COMFORTABLE WITH BEING LOST, DAZED, AND

1 CONFUSED.
2 SEE, MUCH OF OUR PAIN IN LIFE COMES FROM OUR
3 EXPECTATIONS. WE EXPECT LIFE TO GO ONE WAY AND IT
4 DOESN'T. AND WHEN IT DOESN'T, THEN WE GET VERY
5 FRUSTRATED. WE LIKE MAPS. WE LIKE HIGHWAYS. WE LIKE
6 KNOWING THAT IF I GET HERE AND I TURN RIGHT, I'M GOING TO
7 GET THERE. AND WE LIKE FOR IT TO BE CONSISTENT. AND
8 THAT'S GREAT FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK
9 WITH LIFE.
10 WHEN YOUR EXPECTATIONS AND LIFE DON'T GO TOGETHER, IT CAN
11 FRUSTRATE YOU BECAUSE WE HOLD ON SO TIGHTLY TO OUR
12 EXPECTATIONS. THAT'S WHY THE CHIEF SORT OF THEORY OF
13 BUDDHISM AND ZEN AND MEDITATION IS, WE SUFFER BECAUSE WE
14 DO THIS. IF WE JUST DO THIS, IT WOULD BE BETTER.
15 OUR MAPS FOR LIFE, OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR PEOPLE, OUR
16 CERTAINTY THAT YOU KNOW WHAT SOMEBODY ELSE THINKS, OR
17 THAT SOMEBODY WILL SAY, "ALL PEOPLE THINK LIKE THIS" WHEN
18 ALL PEOPLE DON'T THINK ANYTHING.
19 AND I DON'T THINK THE SAME THINGS ON ANY GIVEN DAY. SO
20 FRUSTRATION COMES WHEN WE HAVE STRONG EXPECTATIONS.
21 AND I HAD STRONG EXPECTATIONS OF 2020, AND IT HAS NOT
22 SERVED ME WELL.
23 AND SO TO UNDERSTAND MY EXPECTATION OF 2020, LET ME TELL
24 YOU ABOUT MY 2010.
25 SO AS IT TURNED INTO THAT DECADE, IT WAS A ROUGH YEAR.
IN NASHVILLE WE HAD JUST FINISHED RENOVATING A CHURCH AND
THEN IN MAY IT FLOODED.
AND SO WHEN YOU WATCH YOUR RENOVATION JUST FILL WITH
WATER, AND YOU'RE EXPERIENCING THINGS AS A PASTOR, LIKE
WE'RE TRYING TO MOVE EVERYTHING THAT'S VALUABLE TO THE
UPSTAIRS AND WE WATCHED THE LEVEE NEAR THE CHURCH THAT
USED TO BE OUR FRIEND TOTALLY EXPLODED AND THE WATER WAS
COMING. AND WHEN THAT CHURCH WAS BUILT, IT WAS BUILT BY
A RIVER, WHICH WAS A GOOD THING BECAUSE EVERYBODY RODE
HORSES AND THEN YOU COULD DRINK AND GET WATER FOR YOUR
HORSES. BUT THEN THEY BUILT LOTS OF NEIGHBORHOODS AND
PAVED EVERYTHING, SO THE AMOUNT OF WATER THAT WENT BY
THAT CHURCH WAS PHENOMENAL. SO WHEN THE FLOOD WAS COMING
THROUGH, WE WERE CLEANING OUT AND THEN I REALIZED THAT I
HAD A CONGREGATION OF PEOPLE ANKLE DEEP IN WATER AND THE
ELECTRICAL OUTLETS WERE ONLY A LITTLE BIT HIGHER.
FORTUNATELY, I HAD A CONTRACTOR IN THERE THAT WENT, YEAH,
NEED TO REPLACE THEM ALL.
THEN YOU REALIZE THAT THE PARKING LOT HAD NOW BECOME A
FLOOD AND YOU HAD TO GET YOUR -- NOW IT BECOMES ABOUT
PEOPLE, AND YOU HAVE TO GET THEM ACROSS THAT RAGING RIVER
THAT WAS NOW YOUR PARKING LOT TO THEIR CAR TO GET THEM
OUT AND THEN SEE WHAT HAPPENED.
AND SO TO WALK AWAY FROM THE CHURCH NOT KNOWING IF YOU
WOULD BE ABLE TO COME BACK, THAT WAS A CHALLENGE.

1 AND THEN ONE MONTH LATER MY MOTHER DIED. THAT WAS A
2 CHALLENGE.
3 AND THEN OUR INSURANCE ADJUSTER HAD A STROKE.
4 THAT WAS A CHALLENGE.
5 AND WE HAD LONG SESSION MEETINGS DEBATING ABOUT -- YOU
6 KNOW, IT'S AMAZING HOW THE SESSION, YOU BECOME EXPERT IN
7 MOLD, MOLD ABOUT THE WALL. WE TALKED FOR ABOUT THREE
8 HOURS. THAT'S THE LAST TIME WE TALKED ABOUT ANYTHING
9 LIKE THAT. WE GOT THE RIGHT PEOPLE. WE MADE DECISIONS.
10 90 DAYS WAS WHEN OUR MONEY WAS SUPPOSED TO COME, AND I
11 WAS GOING TO ANOTHER FUNERAL FOR A CHURCH MEMBER UP IN
12 KENTUCKY. AND THE INSURANCE ADJUSTER CALLED AND HE
13 ASKED, JUST HOW MANY SQUARE FEET ARE IN THAT BUILDING?
14 AND IT DIDN'T MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
15 AND SO 2010 ENDED UP WITH A DOWNTURN IN THE NATIONAL
16 ECONOMY.
17 IF YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE IN MUSIC, YOU USED TO BUY A CD
18 TO GET A SONG. NOW YOU DON'T EVEN BUY THE SONG.
19 STRESS WENT THROUGH THE CHURCH. AND THAT KIND OF STRESS
20 AND FLOOD, IT MAKES IT REALLY HARD TO BE A CHURCH MEMBER.
21 THERE WAS A LOT OF INFIGHTING, LACK OF FAITH.
22 THAT WAS 2010 FOR ME.
23 SO 2020 WAS BEGINNING AND I WAS THINKING, YOU KNOW WHAT,
24 I NEED A BETTER DECADE. THIS DECADE WAS ROUGH.
25 I WANT 2020 TO START WELL FOR ME.
AND THEN I HAD A LITTLE DISAGREEMENT WITH OUR PRESBYTERY
THAT BEGAN WITH SORT OF NOT FEELING SUPPORTED, AND IT
MADE ME THINK BACK TO NASHVILLE, WHEN ONE MINISTER FROM
THE PRESBYTERY CAME TO HELP CLEAN UP THE CHURCH, AND SHE
HAD BEEN AN INTERN WITH ME AT CLEMSON, SO THAT ONE DIDN'T
REALLY COUNT. BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME.
AND WE HAD TWO-THIRDS OF THE PEOPLE GO OUT IN THE
COMMUNITY, SO IT WAS GREAT. BUT THEN I WAS FEELING THAT
LACK OF SUPPORT AGAIN. AND THEN WE COME INTO WHAT IS
VERY STRANGE, THIS CORONAVIRUS AND WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH
THE ECONOMY.
AS I WAS THINKING ABOUT THIS CHALLENGE, I THOUGHT ABOUT,
WELL, AT LEAST MY RETIREMENT ACCOUNT IS SECURE. AND
THEN, WELL, NOW IT'S NOT THERE, AT LEAST LIKE IT WAS.
I THOUGHT ABOUT THE DIFFERENT THINGS AND THEN THE
CORONAVIRUS WE WERE HEARING ABOUT IN THE NEWS ON WHETHER
OR NOT IT WOULD AFFECT AMERICA. AND THEN I HEARD THAT
EUROPE WAS SHUT DOWN AND THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY FLIGHTS
FROM EUROPE. AND THAT WAS ESPECIALLY PERSONAL FOR ME
BECAUSE CAYLA AND ABBIE, OUR DAUGHTERS, WERE IN TURKEY,
GOING TO FLY OUT OF PARIS, SO IT BECAME VERY FRIGHTENING,
VERY STRESSFUL. AND SO ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER HAS LED
US HERE.
EVEN AT HOME, WE SOMEHOW ENDED UP WITH FIVE DOGS BETWEEN
MY DAUGHTER'S DOGS AND OTHER DOGS. AND SO WE GOT A NEW

1 PUPPY. AND THE PUPPY WAS CUDDLING NEXT TO ME AND JUST
2 FELT LIKE AT HOME AND YOU COULD SENSE I WAS LIKE THE MAMA
3 DOG. AND THAT DOG WAS SO COMFORTABLE, IT JUST BEGAN TO
4 PEE ALL OVER ME. TWICE.
5 AND SO WITH ALL OF THAT ABOUT MY EXPECTATIONS AND WHAT I
6 THINK LIFE IS GOING TO BE LIKE, WHAT LIFE IS, A LOT OF MY
7 SUFFERING COMES BECAUSE I WANT TO EXPECT THINGS AND
8 ENVISION THINGS SO STRONGLY THAT I CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.
9 THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
10 AND SO A LOT OF TIMES I END UP CONFUSED.
11 AND I FIND THAT IN THIS TIME OF TRYING TO LEARN TO BE
12 COMFORTABLE IN NEW THINGS, BEING COMFORTABLE WITH BEING
13 LOST AND DAZED AND CONFUSED IS PART OF THIS CHALLENGE.
14 BECAUSE IF WE'RE GOING TO GET PAST HERE, YOU HAVE TO JUST
15 TRAVEL THROUGH HERE.
16 LEON RUSSEL IS A FRIEND OF BOB BRITT, A GOOD FRIEND OF
17 MINE, AND THEN -- SO BOB TELLS A STORY OF WHEN LEON WAS
18 WRITING A SONG -- OH, AND I GOT TO OFFICIATE. GOT TO
19 OFFICIATE? I OFFICIATED LEON'S FUNERAL. AND I TELL YOU,
20 TALK ABOUT FEELING LOST, I WAS SORT OF THE BOOKENDS AS
21 THE NASHVILLE PASTOR FOR ALL THESE DIFFERENT GUYS. AND
22 WHEN I STOOD UP TO SPEAK -- LEON RUSSELL, AS YOU KNOW,
23 HAD LONG WHITE HAIR AND A LONG WHITE BEARD. I LOOKED OUT
24 AT THE MASSIVE CROWD OF PEOPLE. IT WAS PACKED OUT IN
25 THAT CHURCH. AND I GUESS THEY WERE FANS. THERE WERE
FOUR GUYS SCATTERED AROUND THE CHURCH THAT LOOKED JUST
LIKE LEON RUSSEL.
AND SO IT'S VERY AWKWARD WHEN YOU STAND UP TO DO A
FUNERAL AND GIVE A EULOGY FOR A PERSON THAT YOU'RE NOT
SURE IF THAT'S NOT HIM.
BUT ANYWAY, LEON HAD THIS GREAT STORY THAT BOB TELLS. HE
WAS WRITING A SONG ABOUT BEING LOST IN THE WOODS AND HE
ASKED HIS SPIRITUAL ADVISOR FROM NIGERIA, HE SAID, HOW DO
YOU SAY 'LOST IN THE WOODS' IN NIGERIAN?
AND HE SAID, I CAN'T.
BECAUSE, YOU SEE, FOR A BUSHMAN, YOU ARE NEVER LOST WHEN
YOU'RE IN THE WOODS. THE JOURNEY HAS GOT TO BE HOME FOR
US. SO IF YOU THINK YOU CAN STRUCTURE THIS IN SUCH A WAY
THAT'S GOING TO BE COMFORTABLE FOR YOU, YOU'RE PROBABLY
NOT GOING TO GET THERE. BUT IF YOU CAN BE COMFORTABLE IN
THE JOURNEY -- AND AS PEOPLE OF FAITH, ISN'T THAT WHAT
HAPPENED? THEY GOT OUT OF EGYPT. THEY SPENT 40 YEARS
WANDERING IN THE DESERT. MAYBE THE WANDERING IS THE
POINT; IF YOU CAN LEARN TO GET ALONG. THE COMMANDMENTS
ARE ABOUT HOW TO LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP. IF YOU CAN LEARN
TO LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP WHEN YOU ARE CONFINED TOGETHER,
IF YOU CAN LEARN TO TRAVEL TOGETHER NOT KNOWING WHERE
YOU'RE GOING AND HOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET THERE, THEN
MAYBE YOU HAVE ARRIVED, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE STILL
TRAVELING.

1 THINK ABOUT JESUS. HE CALLED THE DISCIPLES, HE SAID,
"FOLLOW ME."
2 NOW, FOLLOW ME IMPLIES THAT YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE. HE
WAS GOING EVERYWHERE. HE WAS ACTUALLY GOING TOWARD
3 EASTER. BUT THEY FOLLOWED HIM FROM TOWN TO TOWN, NOT
HAVING ANY, REALLY, SENSE OF -- I'M SURE THEY DIDN'T
4 PRINT OUT AGENDAS AND HAVE MEETINGS AND MINUTES. THEY
JUST WENT.
5 EVERY ENCOUNTER WAS THE DESTINATION.
IT WAS ABOUT THE JOURNEY. SO GET COMFORTABLE WITH BEING
6 UNCOMFORTABLE. GET COMFORTABLE WITH BEING LOST, DAZED,
AND CONFUSED. GET COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR LIFELONG BATTLE
7 WITH FEAR.
BECAUSE HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT FEAR: IT'S
8 REALLY UP HERE (PASTOR POINTS TO HEAD).
THERE IS A STORY -- AND I WANT TO GET THE DETAILS RIGHT.
9 BUT THEY WOULD TAKE MONKS IN THEIR TRAINING AND THEY
WOULD SAY, OKAY, EVERY 100 YEARS MONKS GET A CHANCE TO GO
10 INTO THE ROOM OF 1,000 DEMONS. AND IF YOU CAN'T DO IT,
THEN YOU HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER 100 YEARS.
11 IN ORDER TO ENTER THE ROOM OF 1,000 DEMONS, YOU JUST OPEN
THE DOOR AND YOU WALK IN. IT'S NOT VERY BIG, BUT ONCE
12 YOU ENTER, THE DOOR WILL CLOSE BEHIND YOU,
AND THERE IS NO DOORKNOB ON THE INSIDE OF THE DOOR.
13 IN ORDER TO GET OUT, YOU'LL HAVE TO WALK ALL THE WAY
THROUGH THE ROOM, FIND THE DOOR ON OTHER SIDE, OPEN THE
14 DOOR, WHICH IS UNLOCKED AND COME OUT. THAT'S ALL YOU
HAVE TO DO. IN DOING SO, YOU'LL BE ENLIGHTENED. BUT THE
15 ROOM IS CALLED THE ROOM OF 1,000 DEMONS BECAUSE THERE ARE
1,000 DEMONS IN THERE AND THOSE DEMONS HAVE THE ABILITY
16 TO TAKE ON THE FORM OF YOUR WORST FEAR.
AS SOON AS YOU WALK IN THE ROOM, THOSE DEMONS SHOW YOU
17 YOUR WORST FEARS. IF YOU HAVE A FEAR OF HEIGHTS, THEN
YOU WILL WALK IN THE ROOM AND IT WILL APPEAR AS IF YOU'RE
18 STANDING ON A NARROW LEDGE OF A TALL BUILDING.
IF YOU HAVE A FEAR OF SPIDERS, YOU'LL BE SURROUNDED BY
19 THE MOST TERRIFYING EIGHT-LEGGED CREATURES IMAGINED.
WHATEVER YOUR FEARS ARE, THE DEMONS TAKE THOSE IMAGES
20 FROM YOUR MIND AND SEEM TO MAKE THEM REAL.
IN FACT, THEY'LL BE SO COMPELLINGLY REAL, THAT IT WILL BE
21 VERY DIFFICULT TO REMEMBER THAT THEY'RE NOT.
WE CAN'T COME AND RESCUE YOU. THAT'S PART OF THE RULES.
22 IF YOU GO IN, YOU MUST LEAVE ON YOUR OWN.
SO IF YOU WANT TO ENTER THE ROOM, WE HAVE TWO HINTS FOR
23 YOU. AND THE FIRST IS, AS SOON AS YOU ENTER THE ROOM,
REMEMBER, WHAT THEY SHOW YOU ISN'T REAL;
24 IT'S FROM YOUR MIND.
DON'T BUY INTO IT. IT'S AN ILLUSION.
25 AND THE SECOND IS THE ONE THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT. ONCE
YOU GO INTO THAT ROOM, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SEE, NO MATTER

1 WHAT YOU FEEL, NO MATTER WHAT YOU HEAR, NO MATTER WHAT
YOU THINK, KEEP YOUR FEET MOVING.

2 IF YOU KEEP YOUR FEET MOVING, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY GET TO
THE OTHER SIDE, FIND THE DOOR, AND COME OUT.

3 SO ALL THIS FEAR THAT WE'RE EXPERIENCING AS PEOPLE -- AND
WE ARE LIKE GAZELLES; ONE RUNS AND WE ALL RUN -- WE CAN
4 SOMETIMES MISS THE BIGGER THREATS BECAUSE WE'RE NOT
PAYING ATTENTION.

5 REMEMBER WHERE IT LIVES. IT LIVES IN YOU.
THERE WAS ONCE A MONK WHO WAS TRYING TO PRAY AND HE WAS
6 SO AFRAID THAT HE KNELT DOWN, AND WHEN HE STARTED TO PRAY
ABOUT OVERCOMING HIS FEARS HE SAW A GIANT SPIDER START TO
7 COME DOWN. AND IT WAS HUGE.
AND EVERY NIGHT THAT HE WENT TO PRAY, THERE WAS A GIANT
8 SPIDER. SO FINALLY HE WENT TO THE KITCHEN AND HE COMES
BACK WITH A BUTCHER KNIFE. AND ONE OF THE HEAD MONKS
9 SAID, "HEY, WHERE YOU GOING?"
HE SAID, "WELL, THERE IS A GIANT SPIDER THAT COMES DOWN
10 EVERY TIME I PRAY AND I'M GOING TO KILL IT."
HE SAID, "OKAY, THAT'S FINE, YOU CAN DO THAT.
11 BUT BEFORE YOU DO, I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS PAINT." AND
HE WENT AND GOT PAINT AND SAID, "I WANT YOU TO PAINT A
12 GIANT X ON THE SPIDER."
AND SO HE DID.

13 THE SPIDER CAME DOWN WHEN HE STARTED TO PRAY AND HE
PAINTED AN X ON IT.

14 HE STOOD UP AND BACKED AWAY FROM IT AND THERE WAS A
MIRROR. HE LOOKED OVER IN THE MIRROR AND THE X WAS RIGHT
15 HERE ON HIS FACE.
THIS IS WHERE THAT RESIDED.

16 AND SO TO BE COMFORTABLE WITH WRESTLING YOUR FEARS IS NOT
TO MAKE THEM GO AWAY AND IT'S NOT TO JUST TOTALLY RESIST
17 THEM, BUT LET THEM PASS. BECAUSE THEY WILL, AS LONG AS
YOU REMEMBER THEY'RE IN HERE AND THEY KEEP MOVING THROUGH
18 YOUR ROOM OF 1,000 DEMONS. AND IF NOT, IT CAN KILL YOU.
ERIC BLUMENTHAL SAID THAT THERE IS A BIG -- THERE IS A
19 STATISTICAL REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIE IN
INDIA FROM SNAKEBITES THAT ARE NOT POISONOUS THAT THEY
20 JUST THOUGHT WERE POISONOUS.
HE TELLS OF A GUY WHO GOT LOCKED IN A REFRIGERATED TRAIN
21 CAR AND HE WAS SO SURE THAT HE WAS GOING TO FREEZE TO
DEATH THAT HE DIED, EVEN THOUGH THE CAR WASN'T TURNED ON.
22 THAT'S WHAT YOUR MIND CAN DO TO YOU.
AND YOU CAN DO THAT TO OTHER PEOPLE.

23 WHEN ABBIE WAS LITTLE WE WERE SO AFRAID OF STAIRS AND
EVERYTHING THAT ONE TIME SHE WAS ASKED WHAT'S HER NAME
24 AND SHE SAID, "ABBIE, NO," BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SHE HEARD
OVER AND AGAIN.

25 SHE WAS SO ACTIVE THAT WE WERE CONSTANTLY IN FEAR. WE
PASSED OUR FEAR ON TO HER.

1 AND SO TO DO THAT, TO BE COMFORTABLE WITH FIGHTING OUR
2 FEARS, OR AT LEAST LETTING THEM COME AND GO, IS THE THIRD
3 THING. BE COMFORTABLE WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE, BE
4 COMFORTABLE BEING LOST, DAZED AND CONFUSED. BE
5 COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR LIFE BEING A BATTLE WITH FEAR, YOUR
6 FEARS, AND GET COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR MORTALITY.
7 JESUS SAYS, "WHY WORRY ABOUT YOUR LIFE?" AND HE'S NOT
8 SAYING THAT BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AND
9 YOU'LL BE SAFE. HE DIED AT 33. THE CROSS IS A REMINDER,
10 IF JESUS CAN GO YOUNG, WE ALL CAN GO YOUNG. AND SPEAKING
11 ON BEHALF OF OUR CONGREGATION, MOST OF US CAN'T REMEMBER
12 33. BUT IT'S OKAY. JESUS SAYS, "WHY WORRY?" BECAUSE
13 THAT WORRYING WON'T HELP YOU. IN FACT, IT MAY KILL YOU.
14 WORRYING ISN'T GOING TO MAKE IT BETTER.
15 JUST KEEP MOVING TOWARD WHERE YOU'RE TRYING TO GO.
16 HE SAYS, CONSIDER THE LILIES AND CONSIDER THE GRASS. AND
17 IT'S NOT A VERY GOOD IMAGE. THE GRASS IS TORN UP AND
18 THROWN AWAY.
19 YOU SEE, THE PROBLEM WITH OUR EXPECTATIONS IS THAT GOD
20 DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THEM.
21 A LOT OF TIMES WE PRAY BECAUSE OUR EXPECTATIONS AND WHAT
22 LIFE IS ARE NOT THE SAME AND WE WANT GOD TO FIX OUR
23 EXPECTATIONS, WHEN JESUS' CALL IS TO COME AND JOIN IN
24 WITH GOD'S EXPECTATIONS. YOU KNOW WHAT, WHEN YOU HAVE
25 THAT KIND OF PASSION, WHEN YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF DRIVE,
THEN THE FEARS DISAPPEAR BECAUSE YOU HAVE A GREATER
PURPOSE.
AND WHEN YOU HAVE A GREATER PURPOSE, YOU DON'T CARE
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO GET THERE.
AND THAT DRIVE WILL MAKE THE INSIGNIFICANT WHAT IT'S
SUPPOSED TO BE.
INSIGNIFICANT.
AND YOU WON'T WORRY AS MUCH. YOU WON'T BE AFRAID, AND
EVEN DEATH, YOU REALIZE DEATH'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
IT'S JUST THE END OF THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT, THE WORLD
AS GOD KNOWS it.
LIFE -- DEATH IS NOT THE END LIFE, IT'S JUST THE END OF
LIFE AS YOU KNOW IT, LIFE AS GOD KNOWS IT.
BIRTH WAS THE SAME THING.
YOU WERE COMFORTABLE. YOU WERE SAFE.
AND THEN THERE WAS THIS BRIGHT LIGHT IN A WORLD YOU
COULDN'T IMAGINE.
OUR IMAGINATIONS ARE HELPFUL BUT NOT WHEN THEY ONLY
IMAGINE FEARS INSTEAD OF POSSIBILITIES,
NOT WHEN THEY KEEP US FROM BEING OPEN TO WHAT GOD HAS
THAT'S SO MUCH BIGGER.
BIRTH IS THAT WAY.
NOTICE HERE, JESUS SAYS, "CONSIDER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR."
NOT THE BIRDS ON THE GROUND, NOT THE BIRDS IN THE NEST,
BUT THE BIRDS IN THE AIR.

1 THEY ARE REACHING THAT POTENTIAL. AND THAT'S WHO YOU
ARE.
2 YOU ARE MEANT TO BE THE BIRDS OF THE AIR.
3 YES, YOU CAN BE STUCK TO THE GROUND. BUT WHEN YOU'RE ON
THE GROUND, YOU MOVE WORSE THAN ANY OTHER ANIMAL, EXCEPT
4 MAYBE FISH.
5 WHEN YOU'RE IN THE AIR IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
6 IN THE BEGINNING GOD TELLS US WHO WE ARE IN THE STORY OF
ADAM AND EVE.
7 THERE IS THAT CREATION OF THE FIRST PERSON, OUT OF MUD
AND OUT OF THE BREATH OF GOD.
8 IT'S A BOLD THING. YOU HAVE THIS PART THAT CAN BE AFRAID
OF LOSING ALL THE MUDDY STUFF, BUT YOU GET STUCK IN THE
MUD AND NOT GET IN TOUCH WITH THE BREATH OF GOD.
9 CONSIDER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR.
10 GET COMFORTABLE WITH ALL THIS MESS AND YOU'LL FIND THE
WINGS AND THE AIR TO DO ALL THE WORK FOR YOU.
11 IT'S THE GOODS NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.
12 THANKS BE TO GOD.
13 LET US PRAY.

14 (PRAYER)

15 Pastor Jones: GOD, AS WE COME, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE UP
16 OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR EXPECTATIONS. WE'RE GOING TO
17 GIVE UP OUR KINGDOM, WHICH IS JUST TORMENTING US, FOR
18 YOUR KINGDOM. GIVE US YOUR DREAMS, YOUR HOPES, YOUR
19 EXPECTATIONS, AND THAT PEACE THAT PASSES ALL
20 UNDERSTANDING. GIVE IT TO US. WE TRUST THAT WHEN WE GET
THOSE DREAMS AND EXPECTATIONS, THAT PEACE WILL COME.
21 HEAR US, OH, GOD, AS SEEKING YOUR KINGDOM INSTEAD OF
22 OURS. WE PRAY AS WE WERE TAUGHT, SAYING, OUR FATHER WHO
23 ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME, THY KINGDOM COME,
24 THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
25 GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BRED AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS
AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE
POWER, AND THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN.

26 OUR HYMN IS "I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER." I'M SURE YOU
KNOW IT.

27 (HYMN OF RESPONSE)
(PRINTED IN YOUR BULLETIN)

28 ¶¶¶

29 Pastor Jones: FOR OUR OFFERING, I WANT TO ASK YOU TO
30 GIVE GOD YOUR THOUGHTS
31 SO THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE GOD'S THOUGHTS.

1 GIVE GOD YOUR EXPECTATIONS SO YOU MIGHT HAVE GOD'S
2 EXPECTATIONS. GIVE GOD YOUR DREAMS SO THAT YOU MIGHT
3 HAVE GOD'S DREAMS. AND THEY WILL SHATTER YOUR
4 IMAGINATION.

5 ON A PRAGMATIC NOTE, I WILL TELL YOU THAT VIRTUAL CHURCH
6 LEADS TO VIRTUAL OFFERINGS. WE DON'T HAVE VIRTUAL BILLS.
7 SO AS YOU'RE GOING FORWARD, KNOW WE'VE GOT ENOUGH CASH TO
8 KIND OF COVER THE SHORT TERM, BUT THEN, LIKE MANY
9 OTHERS -- AND WE'VE GOT FOLKS THAT ARE STRUGGLING, AND
10 WE'VE SOME LAYOFFS AND SOME OTHER THINGS -- JUST BE
11 AWARE, BE VERY PRAGMATIC PRESBYTERIANS, JUST REMEMBER.
12 LET US AFFIRM OUR FAITH TOGETHER. BEVERLY, THIS ONE'S
13 FOR YOU.

14 (AFFIRMATION OF FAITH)
15 (PRINTED IN YOUR BULLETIN)

16
17 Pastor Jones: FRIENDS, AS WE'RE GOING FORWARD, WE'RE
18 GOING TO CONTINUE TO DO THIS, AND I THINK IT'S BEEN WELL
19 RECEIVED, AND SO WE WILL FIGURE HOW TO CONTINUE TO
20 BROADCAST OUR SERVICE, EVEN WHEN WE'RE BACK FULL. AND I
21 TRUST TO TELL THE CONGREGATION, YOUR SEAT IS STILL SAVED
22 HERE. JESUS SAVES SOULS BUT WE SAVED YOUR SEAT.
23 AS WE'RE GOING FORWARD WE ALSO TALKED ABOUT, LIKE, FOR
24 SUNRISE SERVICE, WE'RE THINKING ABOUT TRYING TO SET UP
25 SERVICE OUTSIDE AS A DRIVE-IN. SO WE'LL SIT ON THAT SIDE
OF THE PARKING LOT AND THEN MAYBE WATCH THE SUNRISE AS IT
COMES OVER THE CHURCH. I HAVEN'T WORKED OUT THE DETAILS,
BUT WE HAVE LOTS OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT BETWEEN NOW
AND EASTER.
WE'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I RECOGNIZE THAT FOR A LOT OF US FAITH IS ABOUT PRACTICE,
AND SO THEREFORE TO BE ABLE TO COME TO CHURCH, EVEN IF
YOU STAY IN YOUR CAR, YOU'LL STILL BE ABLE TO COME TO
CHURCH ON EASTER. And THEN WE'LL HAVE THE VIRTUAL
SERVICE HERE. AND WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW AS
THE GOVERNOR DIRECTS AND AS THE GOVERNMENT AS FAR AS OUR
GATHERINGS, BUT CONTINUE TO HAVE WORSHIP THIS WAY.

20 (BENEDICTION)
21 (PRINTED IN YOUR BULLETIN)

22 Pastor Jones: FRIENDS, GO FROM THIS PLACE, OR JUST
23 STAY WHERE YOU ARE, SO STAY WHERE YOU ARE. SO STAY WHERE
24 YOU ARE, AND AS YOU STAY, MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP
25 YOU AND MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU AND BE gracious
TO YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

(WORSHIP SERVICE CONCLUDED AT 10:50 A.M.)