



CASCADIAN WEEKLY

October 29, 2021

Week 85

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Cascade Christian Church,

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 96:

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

My guess is we all have some favorite songs and artists from Johnny Cash or the Beatles, or maybe Taylor Swift or Adele, or Coldplay or Mozart. You probably have some favorite hymns or praise songs as well. People always sing out with hymns like "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" and "Amazing Grace" and sing out with praise songs like "Reckless Love" and "Revelation Song". Music is one of the languages we use to speak to God, and we are so blessed at Cascade Christian to have Worship Leader Jacob Relph and Organists Nancy Gaskell and Carol Rienstra. And thank you as well to all of the volunteer musicians and techs who work with them to bring music to our worship services. It has been wonderful to sing together again in church as we praise our God.

As much as we might have favorite songs and hymns, sometimes it is good to learn a new song. Jacob has brought many new songs to us – and continues to do so. Robert Achterhof brought us "In Remembrance" and Tim Murtaugh taught us "Come Share the Lord". New music brings new life into our worship gatherings just as our old favorite bring us comfort and joy.

I write to you today to commend you for singing a new song to God. The last twenty months have brought many changes and challenges, but the people of the church have been resilient and creative. Nothing has stopped our six core ministries: Worship, Social Action and Mission Outreach, Christian Education, Congregational Care, Administration, and Go-Team. This fall we have re-launched many programs and classes that postponed or on-line through Zoom, and new classes and groups have begun. The people and leadership of the church are singing a new song to God – because this is what worship and service are about – praising God's name and proclaiming salvation in ways that are relevant, current, meaningful, and impactful. We saw this in the return of Trunk or Treat. It was amazing – about 300 people participated, and what a way to welcome the community to our campus! The Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors will be a drive-thru/take out, and a great team is at work on welcoming people with a delicious meal in gratitude to God, and we will have Jubal Brass back on December 5, as well as the annual Christmas Craft Workshop. These great events are part of our chorus of gratitude and worship to our Faithful and Loving God.

Thank you, Church, for singing both the great songs of the past, as well as singing into a future that is bright. Together, by the grace of God, the music and life of Cascade Christian plays on. Keep the faith! Jill

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Sunday</u> _(10/31).	Sunday School - 9:30 AM Crib Room - 9:30 AM Worship - 9:30, 11:00 AM Youth Group trip to Robinettes - 12:00 PM
<u>Monday</u> _(11/1).	Book Club Advocates - 11:30 AM (Coffee House) Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Tuesday</u> _(11/2).	Men's Group - 6:30 AM (Coffee House) Women's Bible Study - 9:00 AM (Centennial Hall) Young Adult Small Group 7:00 PM
<u>Wednesday</u> _(11/3).	Overeaters Anonymous - 3:30 PM (Coffee House) Wednesday Night Classes 6:30 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Bible Study "The Chosen" • Wednesday Jubilee - Elementary School • Youth Group - Middle & High School Scouts - 7:00 PM (Centennial Hall) Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Thursday</u> _(11/4).	Grief Share - 10:00AM (Coffee House) Be Bold - 5th-7th grade class 4:15 - 5:45 PM Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Friday</u> _(11/5).	Church Office Closed Open Talk Group - 7:30 AM (Coffee House)
<u>Saturday</u> _(11/6).	

Financial giving for
the week ending in
10/24/2021:
Budgeted: \$10,652
Given: \$19,518

MEALS MINISTRY

All who would like to help with meals for the Zeeryp family, please contact the church office or call Darcy Hartley. Scott is back home, being cared for Melissa, and meals are to be dropped off in a cooler on the porch of the Zeeryp home, or we can arrange for them to be delivered.

Casseroles, lasagna, and anything chocolate are appreciated.

Thank you for caring for this beloved family.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Thank you to everyone who helped make Trunk or Treat 2021 an extraordinary event.

We estimate we had 300 participants, and couldn't have done this without the help of the church.

Thank you to all who hosted a car:

Amber, Andy, Grace, and Lexi Elliott, Jim and Deb Wisneski, Tim and Darcy Hartley, Aaron Stek and our Cub Scout Troop, Jan Schichtel, Adam Carlson, Austin Crandell, Devin and Tonya Olson, Brian and Doris Burgess, Gail and John Duchon, Audrey Partak, Roxy and Josh Boone, Kim and Brian Armour, Sue O'Brien, Mike O'Brien, Jane Klein, Darlene Scharfschwerdt, Shirley Folkertsma, Barb Peters and Ron Bly, Michael Dirksen, Jacob Relph, Rebecca Scofield, Katie O'Brien and Jen Scofield, Laura Wood, Adam and Allyse Homan, Kathy and Mark DeYoung, Mike and Jill Forton.

Thank you to the Go-Team of Steve Dirksen and Austin Crandell for hosting the welcome table.

Thank you to all who donated candy, and very special thanks for 6 huge cartons of candy from Alan Thorpe and his food brokerage company.

Congratulations to the pumpkin carving winners:

First place: Sophia Reavis

Second place: Lexi Elliott

Third place: Grace Elliott

Thank you to Bos Greenhouse for the donations of pumpkins.

It was a wonderful day, and we are so grateful this event could happen again this year.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



ROBINETTES

On October 31st after Sunday School we will be going to Robinettes apple orchard. We will be doing the corn maze, eating doughnuts, and having a fun filled fall day. Meet at the church at 12:00pm and we will be back at church by 3:00pm. Bring some spending money for snacks or other things you may want at Robinettes.

EVENT SIGN UP

We are so excited to get youth group underway. We will be going to Spring Hill for a winter retreat, Mackinac Island, on a mission trip, and doing some fundraisers to help pay for these events as well. If you'd like to help out or you know that your child would like to participate, please fill out the form. Let Michael know if you have any questions.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year we are doing Sunday School at 11:00 AM. We are working our way through the whole Bible. Come right up to the youth room at 11:00 AM (we will not be dismissing from Church). We hope to see you there!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Our Wednesday Night Youth Group is up and running again. We are following the lessons in Sunday School and learning more about what we learned that week in Sunday School. We hope to see you here each week!

CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children are encouraged to bring money for an offering each week. Near Christmastime, we will use the money we've collected to buy toys and books for kids at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Talk with your children about tithing and what it means to be generous.

BE BOLD

We are holding a class for 5th-7th graders on Thursday afternoons from 4:15 - 5:45. Each week we'll be wrestling with questions about the faith. If your child needs a ride from school, please contact the church office.

ADULT MINISTRIES

GAYLORD COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The application is online and available in the church office. Applications are due this Monday, November 1st, and the scholarship is open to all active church members.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The young adult Bible study is meeting on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30 at Michael Dirksen's house. If you would like to participate, please contact Michael at 616.283.9744

GENERAL NEWS

VETERANS DAY SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 14 the church will recognize our veterans in both the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services. We hope that all of the veterans of the congregation will be present to stand and receive our gratitude during a time of thanks during the service. We continue to update our list of veterans, and apologize when people have been left off. Veterans are encouraged to send Caitlin their name, dates of service, which branch they served under, and a photo. Please email photos to office@cascadechristian.com or drop them off at the church office and we will scan them and return them to you. Thank you to all who served God and country!

EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY - ST. ROBERT CHURCH

In-person support group meetings have resumed at St. Robert on every other Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. They are entering the 14th year of our ministry and are pleased to announce that most of their members successfully find employment in their chosen field at a commensurate salary. Meetings are held on November 3, 17, and December 1, 15, and 29.

This ministry is a part of the Employment and Resource Network, a ministry that has been hosted for the past 20 years by churches in West Michigan. There is also a Zoom group session on alternate Wednesdays hosted by our founder Ken Soper.

FALL CLEAN UP DAY

All are invited for our annual Fall Clean Up Day for the church grounds Saturday, November 13 at 9:00 Bring a rake and gloves.

FAMILY PROMISE DRIVE BY SAMO

The Social Action and Outreach committee is holding a Family Promise Donation drive October 10-31. The following items were selected as most needed; Pam Cooking Spray, Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Popcorn, and Pillows (new). Collection boxes will be in the church narthex and the church office. Contact Diane Phelps with questions. Thank you for all of the donations that will be delivered next week.

DAYS FOR GIRLS WORKSHOP

Assembling, ironing, cutting, and stitching sustainable menstrual kits for young women, in Centennial Hall.

November 20, 1-4

All skill levels, sewers and non-sewers alike. Contact Diane Phelps (email dianephelps2010@gmail.com), or call the church office.

A MESSAGE FROM CARIBBEAN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

"PLEASE CONVEY TO THE CONGREGATION OUR THANKS...

We are deeply touched by the special offering for Emergency Relief. The funds will be used for feeding people in the months to come and at some point, for construction, when the rubble has been cleared away and people are able to start rebuilding. Shown below is one of the camps where we are feeding 27 families. They are SO SO grateful, as no one else has come to help them.

The people of CCC have been so faithful in supporting the work that we do. We cannot do it without people like you. The prayers being offered sustain through the difficult times. THANK YOU!"



CONGREGATIONAL CARE – THANKSGIVING DINNER – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Many thanks to the Congregational Care Committee under the direction of Susan Strobel and John Duchon for the work on the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Senior Citizens. Due to precautions issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the church will be hosting a drive through- take out dinner again this year. We simply do not have enough space to safely distance and host this as a sit-down dinner. Last year many chose to eat their dinners together with friends off campus, and we encourage all who are comfortable to do the same this year. The invitation for the dinner will be coming out in a few weeks. If you are a senior citizen (over 70 years of age) and are unsure if you are on the invitation list, please call the church office. If you would like to serve on the committee who will prepare for this dinner, please be in touch as well.

10.24.2021 SERMON: PEACE, BE STRONG NOW, BE STRONG

So we have been working our way through the book of Daniel this autumn, reading about how to be courageous in difficult times. We've seen how it takes courage to know who you are, and that God can use you just as you are, it takes courage to stand for Christ, it takes courage to admit it when you're wrong, it takes courage to look within and see what God is writing on your wall, and it takes courage to face your own lions. The book of Daniel was written while Israel was in exile in Babylon. Daniel helps us see that God was with his people even when they were far from home, away from all that had meaning, when they were unable to worship and offer sacrifices to God as they had done in the Temple of Jerusalem. As long as they walked humbly and faithfully before him, God continued to work among His people and bless them. And as far as we know Daniel never returned to his homeland.

Through the events and dreams in the book of Daniel we see how God encouraged Israel and revealed to them that no matter how bad it gets in this world, God is not finished. He will eventually bring about His heavenly kingdom and it will ultimately overcome all the earthly kingdoms and rulers of this world. This is the message for us today. This is a message of peace, and to be strong, to have courage and be at peace and be strong now.

Daniel is not just the narrative of God's people in Babylon, it is also a book of visions and revelations of what is to come. People have had a lot of theories about what Daniel 7-12 is about, but I think all would agree that it is concerning the destiny of God's people. These dreams and visions of Daniel are rarely studied in some churches, and wildly misinterpreted in others. But God put this message in the Bible for us to learn from so we should not ignore this. Let's ask God to show us what He wants us to see as we look at His word.

So the second half of Daniel is about dreams. When was the last time you had a scary or troubling dream? Do you remember what was scary about it? When we study Daniel we hear about a lot of scary dreams - King Nebuchadnezzar and the huge image of gold, silver, brass, iron, and clay that was destroyed by a stone that hurtled through the air and smashed into the statue, breaking it until all the pieces are like dust in the wind. Then the stone became a mountain that grew until it fills the entire earth. This dream meant that earthly kingdoms fail, and God will prevail. In chapter 4 Nebuchadnezzar has another dream and this time Daniel tells him how God will humble him and break his pride. Nebuchadnezzar would become like an animal in his mind and actions until he humbled himself and recognized that God sets up rulers as God chooses. King Nebuchadnezzar ended up praising the God of Israel as the Most High God. After Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel served under other Kings - Belshazzar, Dairus, and Cyrus. Then, as a wiseman and counselor to kings, Daniel himself has some dreams.

Listen to chapter 7:1-3: **In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.**

2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. 3 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

This dream or vision could better be called a nightmare. The Great Sea represents the countries of the world. And the four beasts are four great nations. Daniel first sees a lion with eagle's wings - an emblem of Babylon, but the wings get plucked off, and the lion becomes like a man, this sound like what happened to Nebuchadnezzar. Then from the sea comes a bear with 3 ribs in its mouth - the bear represents the Medes and Persians. They were a massive nation - huge, like a bear, large, but also slow and sluggish, the ribs represent the nations they conquer - Egypt, Lydia, and Babylon. Next out of the waters rises a leopard with four heads and four wings -this is the nation of Greece, and the leopard is an emblem of the swift movement and fast conquests of Alexander the Great.

10.17.2021 SERMON: IT TAKES COURAGE FACE YOUR LIONS

The last beast is not identified, other than great and terrible with iron teeth, crushing everyone under foot, and it had 10 horns. This is Rome, who will rule with an iron fist. And yet, all of these mighty kingdoms will fall, one after another. And then – there is a little horn, the stuff of nightmares, it had eyes, and a mouth, and is full of pride, it boasts, and is defiant. This is Satan, the evil one. But then the Ancient of Days, God takes His seat, his throne is flaming with fire, thousands upon thousands, ten thousand times ten thousand stand before him – like in Revelation. Satan keeps boasting, then the Son of Man appears.

Daniel 7:13-14:13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

This is Jesus. Then Daniel tells us that the saints of the Most High will receive His Kingdom and possess it forever, Daniel says to us yes, forever, and ever. So how are we doing? Did you get all that? Is this a little too weird or out there from what we are used to? Do any of you get the urge to just skip over it and go on to something else more familiar? I believe we need to resist that urge. We need to ask for God’s guidance and humble ourselves and listen. Do you get the point? Who wins? The saints! But Daniel goes on to show that it’s not that easy. Evil is strong, and even the saints must endure before receiving the kingdom. Every week I hear your suffering, how hard the pandemic has been, how you can’t talk about this with family and friends who see things differently than you, how challenging things are not only here, but worldwide. This has been a hard time for you, saints, and think of the suffering of our brother and sister saints in Haiti, or Detroit. Suffering is part of sainthood.

But look at Jesus! He suffered. He endured hardship, betrayal, rejection from his own family, pain, torture, abandonment, and then a criminal’s death. He tells us to follow Him that His yoke is easy, and his burden is light, because he carries it with us, but he also tells us to pick up our own cross. When Jesus faced those who put him to death, the high priest rose among them and asked him point blank, “Are you the Messiah, the son of the blessed One?” Jesus answered: “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming in the clouds of glory.” That’s what Daniel saw, the Son of man coming in the clouds, Jesus who was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that includes all peoples, nations, and languages. His dominion is an everlasting, endless, it will never pass away. Satan cannot destroy the Kingdom of Jesus, no matter how much he boasts or is defiant.

This is your kingdom this is where you belong, where Jesus the Christ rules and reigns. We who follow him are his chosen ones, his holy nation, his royal priesthood, the people belonging to God. That is who you and I are in Jesus Christ! That is who we become by his grace and adoption through the Holy Spirit when we trust him and are baptized in his name. May God open our eyes to see who He is and may God strengthen us to face whatever comes our way. Daniel’s vision speaks of judgment and justice.

We are invited by God Himself to do our part to include every country, language, tribe, all of the people of earth. Our job, our part, is to be faithful and invite others in, and Jesus will sort them out. And when the judgment comes, as it surely will, the evil powers will crash down into eternal damnation, and as the dust settles, we’ll be standing, rejoicing, enjoying God’s glory and presence throughout the eternal ages. So let’s be faithful. Let’s be willing to stand, and by the grace of God we will. No matter what, we will stand and include others.

10.17.2021 SERMON: IT TAKES COURAGE FACE YOUR LIONS

Daniel continues to have dreams and visions – and the words are given to you in the Bible to encourage you – Daniel 10:18-19 **Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. 19 “Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed,” he said. “Peace! Be strong now; be strong.” When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength.”**

God is giving you His peace. I think we need to pause here and think about that. God says peace. Don't be afraid, be strong now, be strong, and have peace. In so many ways, we see things differently than God does. We see the sickness; God sees the healing. We see the troubles; God sees the triumph. We so easily see the challenges, while God sees growing strength and resolve. This is a time for peace and for strength, strength to resist evil, strength to help others, strength to pray for those in need, strength to be generous and full of grace. And even strength to confess the ways we have fallen away from God, because that is the road to inner peace.

As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we believe faith and reason, faith in our God who is with us, who is always with us, even when we can't see far ahead or even see at all. And reason, that God has given us minds to think, given us the will to do things to glorify Him and build His Kingdom, and to see that working together always gets us further than working apart. We might be dismayed by the power, evil, self-centeredness, the greed and pride, but God knows this evil is only temporary. Kingdoms will rise and fall, but God is sovereign, all powerful, endless in His love and grace, and God has written the ending. Evil cannot endure, it can't stand against the power of the Almighty.

Even as Daniel had more nightmares of the evil one, of Satan, who exalts himself in these visions, Satan cannot stand, and is defeated. Daniel 11:45 says of the evil one – **Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.** God wins, that is how it ends. And while we have this assurance, we are not yet through the journey. It is hard right now, but we are not alone. God has commanded His angels concerning us, to protect us, to help us, to go to battle for us. God's word continues in Daniel 12:1-4 saying this of God's angels and the archangel Michael:

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. 2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”

Today we increase in our knowledge, knowing God fights for us, God is with us, God has your name written in the book of life and on the palms of his hands. And in God's hands you shine, like a star. You've had the courage to look at this wisdom in Daniel, and Daniel's vision isn't so much about timetables when prophecy will occur, or the date of the return of Jesus- it is a vision of heart change – heart attitude towards the Lord. It takes courage to face a Living God, courage to be numbered among the saints, courage to repent and let God be God. What rings out loud and clear in every chapter of this book is that God is sovereign. God overrules and eventually will overcome all evil.

So be at peace, and be strong. This is encouragement for people living in challenging times, whether it was the people of God in Babylon or you and me right now. God is at war, friends, at war with evil and without a doubt God will overcome evil. This message in Daniel brought God's people comfort in Babylon, and it brings us comfort now. The Ancient of Days knows what He is doing. So for you and me, peace, be strong now, be strong. Amen and amen.