

The Lord's Day

April 30, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM

Scripture for Meditation: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."
-James 1:2-4 (ESV)

Prelude Carol Jones, piano

Announcements

* Call to Worship (responsive reading) [Psalm 48](#)

Leader: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised

In the city of our God!

We have thought on your steadfast love, O God

In the midst of your temple

As your name, O God,

So your praise reaches to the ends of the earth

This is our God, forever and ever

He will guide us forever.

* Hymn 44 [How Great Thou Art](#) O STORE GUD

* Invocation

Old Testament Lesson (responsive reading) [Psalm 16](#)

Leader: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you."

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,

in whom is all my delight.

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;

their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out

or take their names on my lips.

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;

you hold my lot.

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

I have set the LORD always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy;

at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

New Testament Lesson (Bible, p. 948) [Romans 13:8-14](#)
(continuous reading)

Hymn (insert) *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*
arr. J. Robinson, M. Farren, & R. Thompson

** Silent Prayer of Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Hymn 342 [Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation](#) REGENT SQUARE

** Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

* Hymn 731 [Doxology](#) OLD HUNDREDTH

* Prayer of Dedication

Sermon *Toward Joyful Maturity, Through Trials*
Text: [James 1:1-4](#) (Bible, p. 1011)
Pastor Will Snyder

* Hymn 600 [He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!](#) HE LEADETH ME

* Benediction

Postlude

As you enter the Sanctuary, please be considerate of others who are quietly preparing for worship. Please silence your cell phones before the service begins.

Nursery care is available for infants through age 3 in Rooms 2 and 4.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given by Scott and Danielle Bolliger in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary.

* Congregation Standing

** Congregation Kneeling

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

April 30, 2023

Worship Leader: Elder John Sundet
Greeters:
Deacon in Charge: Scott Bolliger
Ushers: Howard Craig
Audio: Tim Owens
Nursery: 9:30:
10:30 (*Worship*): Toni Kirk, Ava Wilson
Toddler Time:
Coffee Clean-up: Chenelle Shepherding Group

Evening Audio:

May 7, 2023

Worship Leader: Elder Doug Fox
Greeters:
Deacon in Charge: Howard Craig
Ushers: David Embree
Audio: Sam Edwards
Nursery: 9:30:
10:30 (*Worship*): Danielle Bolliger, Kevin Hilinski
Toddler Time:
Coffee Clean-up: Fox Shepherding Group

Evening Audio: *Shepherding Groups-
No Evening Service*

This Week at Church

Monday	7:00 PM	Women's Zoom Bible Study
Tuesday	11:00 AM	Children's Music & Movement
	6:00 PM	Session Meeting
Wednesday	1:00 PM	Bible Study
Saturday	7:00 AM	Men's Covenant Group
	9:00 AM	All-Church Workday
Sunday	9:30 AM	Discovery Class
	12:00 PM	Shepherding Groups

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Our Sunday evening worship service starts at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Come sing, pray, and hear from God's Word to close out your Lord's Day rest.

COMING EVENTS

ALL-CHURCH WORKDAY

The Spring All-Church Workday is scheduled for **Saturday, May 6th**, beginning with donuts and coffee at **9:00 AM**. We are hoping to accomplish various indoor and outdoor tasks and we have jobs for people of all ages and abilities. Please see the sign-up sheet on the back table in the Fellowship Hall and consider how you may help us maintain the lovely building and grounds God has given us. (There is a rain date of Saturday, May 13th for outdoor tasks – indoor tasks can be done rain or shine!)

BABY SHOWER FOR CHLOE SINNAMON

Liz Sundet and Jennifer Sinnamon would like to invite all the ladies of the church to attend a baby shower for Chloe Sinnamon as she anticipates the birth of her baby boy in July!

The event is scheduled for **Sunday, May 28th**, in the fellowship hall, from **1:30-4:30 PM**.

Sandwiches, beverages and a fruit platter will be provided. If you are able, please bring a dessert to share. A sign-up sheet will be available on the back table in the fellowship hall.

Chloe is registered at Babylist.com.

We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating this blessing with our sisters in Christ.

CANOE TRIP

Overnight canoe trip hosted by Christ Presbyterian Church of New Haven on **June 2 & 3**. See flyer on back table of fellowship hall for more information.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Bible Study takes place at 1:00 PM at the church. If you are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Will at the church office: (860) 742-7222.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

In-Person Women's Bible Study led by Debbie Goodale, at 6:30 PM at the church. We will be going through the book of Romans! Please reach out to Debbie Goodale if you have any questions. Cell: 860-455-6579; Email: dlhgoodale@gmail.com. Next one – May. 8th.

Zoom Women's Bible Study led by Elizabeth Koopman at 7:00 PM. We will be going through the book of Mark! Please reach out to Elizabeth Koopman for the Zoom link via text/call: 860-324-9456 or via email: e.koopman61@gmail.com. Next one – May 1st.

MIDWEEK RECHARGE

The next Midweek Recharge will be on **May 10th**. Please come and enjoy food and fellowship.

For those who would like to contribute meals, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Fellowship Hall with a list of needs for the upcoming meeting. Please contact Collin Robinson (334.464.0142) or Pastor Will (860.742.7222) for any questions or if you have a desire to serve meals to others.

CHURCH NURSERY

The nursery will not be staffed during morning worship during the months of June, July, and August this year. The nursery will remain open for parents with their children. Parents will be responsible for cleaning the nursery space following use. Any concerns or questions about family alternatives during morning worship during these months may be directed to Richard Jones.

Nursery staffing will resume in September, and we are looking for additional volunteers to reduce the frequency in scheduling nursery staff. If you are willing to serve in the nursery approximately once every 2 months, please see Anita Hilinski.

MEAL MINISTRY FREEZER

The deacons have purchased a small freezer dedicated solely to the meal ministry. Currently there are four meals in the freezer. There is a list on the outside of the meals and their ingredients as well as side items that go with them. Please take a meal for yourself or give one to someone that can use one and mark off the meal that you have taken. We are also looking for individuals or groups that would be willing to make meals as they are needed going forward. Please contact Pete or Jill Benedict with questions or to sign up.

Notes for the Preaching of God's Word
Toward Joyful Maturity, Through Trials
James 1:1-4

Main Preaching Point: As you face various trials in your life of faith, be joyful, for God is doing a greater work through them to grow you in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

- Identity—knowing who we are in the world
- Testing—the joy and fruit of various trials
- Holiness—God's aim in the believer's life

Questions for Individuals, families, or small groups

Text: James 1:1-4

Title: Toward Joyful Maturity, Through Trials

Questions:

1. What was most important or applicable in today's preaching? Can you summarize the main message?

Identity—knowing who we are in the world

2. According to the sermon, who is James? And how should we understand the language in verse 1, "the twelve tribes in the Dispersion"? Who is this referring to, and how does the fact that James is writing as a Christian to Christians give shape to the language?

Discuss.

3. In considering the greeting and opening four verses, how do they address issues related to identity and purpose in the Christian life? Explain.

Testing—the joy and fruit of various trials

4. Read v.2-4. What is your first impression with James' very strong opening words? What might this reveal about the spirit in which he writes, and the seriousness of his intent? Discuss.

5. What is James' reasoning as to why meeting various trials in life should be viewed/counted (among other things) as joy? Discuss his reasoning and train of thought as to what trials are for, and what they might shape in a person.

- Reflect on your own life. Describe a time, circumstance, or season in which you faced a trial. How has that trial given shape to your faith? Explain.

6. How would you define steadfastness? Read Hebrews 10:32-36. Relate.

Holiness—God's aim in the believer's life

7. Read v.4 again. What is the goal of being steadfast amidst trials? What is God seeking to produce in his people? What does it mean to "be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing"? Read Philippians 4:12-13 and compare Paul's words to that of James. How do they connect? Think about Paul's words on being content, able to do all things through Christ who gives strength, and James' words about 'lacking nothing.'

8. Throughout church history there have been scholars and theologians who have struggled to reconcile Paul's theology of justification by grace alone through faith alone, with James' theology of necessarily evidencing true faith with a life of works (see Gal.2:16 & James 2:18, 24).

Consider reconciling the two perspectives in this way: Paul is answering the question, 'how does one obtain or experience salvation?' Answer: By grace through faith alone. Indeed, it is a gift (Eph.2). While James is answering the question, 'how does one evidence salvation?' Answer: By demonstrating a life of repentance and holiness. Discuss.

9. How does the overall text in James reveal the good news found in the Lord Jesus Christ? Explain.