

Spirit-Groaning and Trust-Filled Waiting

By Scotty Smith

“We who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly...” Rom. 8:32

Lord Jesus, we live with a relentless ache for peace. In the past several months, this ache has been fertilized with the “messes” in this world and the Spirit of hope. As Paul said, we “groan eagerly.”

Though we’ve found eternal peace in the Gospel, the DNA we carry from the Garden of Eden, and the promises you have made about our coming life in the new heaven and new earth, make it hard to wait. We’re not good at waiting, Jesus.

We’re like children demanding 3 o’clock snacks before a 5 o’clock supper. We don’t want celery, we want chocolate. Cravings and aches take over. Longings morph into a sense of entitlement, and entitlement becomes angry demandingness. When we want relief more than we want you, we make bad choices. Help us, Jesus.

As we begin this pandemic-marred, post-impeachment, pre-inauguration weekend... on this date, in this *very* moment, you are the Prince of Peace, the King of calm, the Lord of serenity. You’re not the anxious one, we are.

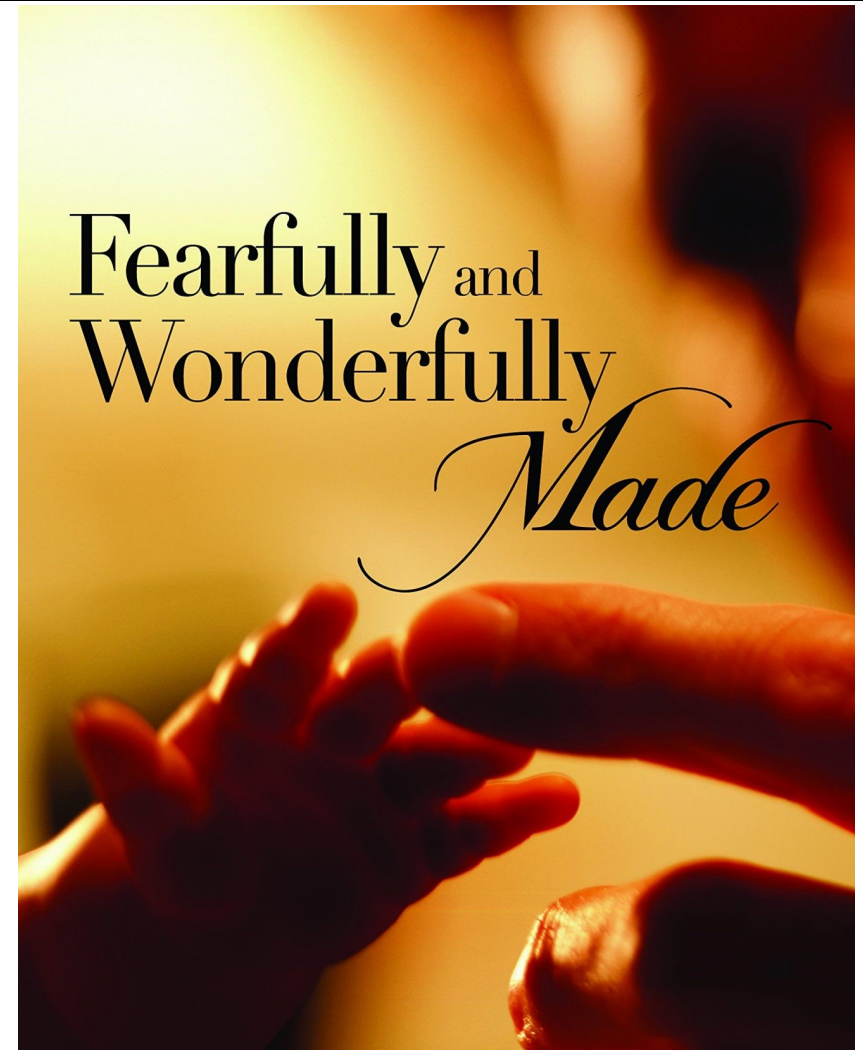
Until the Day of all things new and beautiful, fill and free our hearts with your peace, Jesus. Replace our demandingness with gratefulness. Don’t decrease our good groaning, but increase our trust-filled waiting. So very Amen we pray, in your tender and triumphant name.



January 17, 2021

10:30 A.M.

From Invisible to Indispensable!



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

Hymn

“Healing is in Your Hands”. . . Carson/Nockels/Redman/Tomlin

-----God’s Greatness-----

Call to Worship: Psalm 139:1–17

Hymn of Praise

“Everlasting God”. Brown/Riley

Prayer of Invocation

Song

“Blessed Be Your Name”. Matt & Beth Redman

Children are Dismissed to Sunday School

----- God’s Renewal -----

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Ephesians 2:4–6 (ESV)

Song of Renewal

“He Knows My Name”. Tommy Walker

-----God’s Grace-----

A Testimony for Sanctity Of human Life Sunday: Deana Deichert

A Sermon for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

“From Invisible to Indispensable”

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Hymn: “Clean”. Natalie Grant

Prayer of Approach

Words of Institution: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (ESV)

-----God’s Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

“This is My Father’s World”. . . Purdy/Sheppard/Riddle/Babcock

Benediction

God creates and redeems and calls every human life as His own precious treasure from fertilization to eternity. His grace, not anyone age, appearance, or ability, gives sanctity and significance to each human being. Nobody’s size or shade can improve it, and nobody’s skills or circumstances can impair it.

What will you do to find the motivation to engage in a consensus for Life?

What will you do to take action to respect and protect especially the least of these?

Proverbs 24:10–12 (ESV)

¹⁰ *If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.*

¹¹ *Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. ¹² If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?*

Notes

God’s Gracious Provision 1/10/2021

Offering: \$3614.00

Attendance: 38

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

Humanity comes from what we are and not from what we do.
 And just because it sometimes goes unnoticed doesn't mean it's absent.
 No person's preciousness depends on us detecting it.
 It isn't that the worth and purpose of the least of these are so little we cannot calculate them.
 It's that human worth and purpose are too great for us to comprehend.

It's not just her body, her choice.
 It's not just his problem, his fault.
 Your body belongs to the Almighty Father who made it.
 Their body belongs also to the Incarnate Son who redeemed it.
 Each body belongs also to the Holy Spirit who calls it His temple and treasure.
 This is My body, says the Savior Jesus Christ.
 This is My beloved son and My beloved daughter, says the Lord our God.
 This life, embryo or aged, dying or disabled, is also your privilege and my responsibility.

Humanity isn't made up of individuals but of indispensables.
 We are connected. We are community. We are one body.
 We need each other. We have each other.
 None lives to himself alone, and none dies to himself alone.
 If one member suffers, all suffer together.
 We can do this, and we will rejoice!

<https://lutheransforlife.org>

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT 6:15-7:15 P.M. Youth and Adults

GCC Prayer Gathering at the House of Prayer

1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Worship through song, reading Scripture, and praying.



Sunday, January 31 10:30 A.M. Vision Casting Sunday

Join us as we reflect on 2020 and chart our course for 2021.

Friday, February 19—Sunday, February 21

Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Sankanac. Join us for an exciting weekend full of fellowship, worship, games, and a practical study on relying on God in daily life. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Table.



If you would like to provide any of the following items for Birthright of Pottstown, please see Deana Deichert.

Baby Boy:

- 0-3 month Winter coats
- 3-6 month Winter coats
- 12 month clothing
- 18 month clothing

Maternity Clothing:

- Maternity leggings - all sizes
- Maternity tops - size small
- Any maternity clothes - size XL and XXL

Baby Girl:

- Premie clothing
- 12 month clothing
- 18 month clothing



Right Now Media

We offer all of you access to a web -site called Right Now Media. There are literally hundreds of resources that are available for you to view. As you take some time to look around you will see resources for children, youth, marriage, studies on books of the Bible, and many other topical studies.

There is no cost to you and you can return and watch the videos as often as you would like and there is always new material being added. If you do not have access to this resources please contact rickknarr@gmail.com and we will provide the access information for you.

Prayer/Praise. January 17, 2021

- Pray for Mike Row, who has a bruised rotator cup on his left side. He has sharp pain if he tries to move his left arm above his elbow. He is receiving physical therapy. Please pray for healing and relief from pain for Mike.
- Pray for Jonnie, friend of Donna Jenkins, whose husband passed away Monday morning. Jonnie was not allowed to see him before he passed away. Please pray for Jonnie and her family.
- Pray for the family of Ashley and Jeremy Adams. The whole family, except for Jeremy, has Covid. Pray that their minor symptoms will not worsen and good health returns quickly.
- Praise God that Lulu Bocci got accepted to Bob Jones University to pursue her online Master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling. Lulu made the difficult decision to leave her full-ride education for her masters in school guidance counseling at Kutztown University after she was asked to compromise her Christian beliefs.
- Pray for all our college students as they head back to school: Lulu Bocci (Bob Jones University); Nic Collins (S. Carolina School of Leadership); Brandon Crothers (Lock Haven); Tim Deichert (MCCC); Cassie Frame (Eastern); Macie Frame (West Chester); Marissa O'Connor (Pace University); Brenna Pritchard (Cedar Crest College); Dominique Viola (Penn College); Carena Williams (MCCC); Tyler Yensan (Military).
- Pray for Matt Deichert, who tested positive for COVID and is in quarantine. Pray for his recovery and that his family remains symptom free.
- Pray for Noah Lee. One of Noah's teachers has symptoms and is being tested. Pray that Noah remains symptom free and that his teacher tests negative.
- Please continue to pray for Rindy Lee's father and her brother's girlfriend, who has now tested positive for Covid. Rindy's father is doing better, but oxygen levels are still a concern. The antibiotic seems to be helping. Pray for continued healing for Rindy's family.
- Pray for Dr. Hsu, Jill Aument's employer. Dr. Hsu's father and mother have Covid. Her father is in ICU. Please pray for God's healing Hand on them and peace for Dr. Hsu and direction on how to handle everything.
- Pray for the mother of Mandi's friend, Dana, who passed away. Dana's mother knew her Savior and is resting in His arms now. Pray for Dana and her sisters and their families as they navigate planning a funeral during COVID.
- Pray for Nic Collins, who will be going to Quito, Ecuador for a mission trip at the end of March. Pray for travel, safety, and no COVID. Pray for funds to be raised, as they will be helping in the capital with special needs children and teens.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Please pray for continued healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Tyler and Kaci Yensan, as Kaci prepares to join Tyler in North Carolina.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in physical therapy.

Message

From Invisible to Indispensable!

1 Corinthians 12:22–26 (ESV)

On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Abortion acts like some persons are invisible.

Assisted suicide treats some persons as invisible.

It says they don't have enough size to matter.

It says they don't have adequate skills to matter.

It says they don't have the right circumstances to matter.

It tempts us to use death as a solution.

It tells us we shouldn't have to look at them anymore.

If our unborn neighbor or the elderly one seems invisible,

if the persons with disabilities feel invisible,

doesn't anyone wonder why?

Their ages don't make them invisible.

Their appearances don't make their humanity invisible.

Their inabilities don't make their sanctity invisible.

Pretty and popular are just comparisons.

Productive and profitable are only perceptions.

None of these can impart humanity,

and none of them can deprive someone of it.