

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come to Christ, that living stone, rejected by the world, but in God's sight chosen and precious.

P: We have responded to Christ's call, and seek to be built into a spiritual house.

L: Once we were no people, but now we are God's people, called out of the darkness into God's marvelous light.

P: By God's mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

† HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

UMH #545

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Christ, who commanded the apostles to go into all the world, and to preach the gospel to every creature, let your name be great among the nations from the rising up of the sun to its going down, now and for ever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

CHILDREN'S TIME

† HYMN

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

UMH #277

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 4:1-9

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

SERMON

"Whatever!"

Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From I Corinthians & Colossians

UMH #888

† GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

† HYMN

God Will Take Care of You

UMH #130

† BENEDICTION



