

October 2, 2020 Devotion - Scripture: Genesis 2:7; Song “Who You Are to Me”

Most everyone has a different concept of who God is to them. For some he is an angry God, ready to send down lightning if they something wrong. For others, he is somebody far off, who made have made them but now is not involved in their lives. For others, He doesn't exist, is nothing at all. Chris Tomlin and Lady A. have a different idea of who God is, as I pray you do. They sing in the chorus of the song, “:Who You Are to Me” these words, “Lord, you are the air that I breathe, that's who you are to me.” I think they have something there is that description., maybe even more that they thought when they wrote and sang it. In our Scripture verse for today, Genesis 2:7, Moses wrote in describing God's creating Adam these words, “the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his mouth the breathe of life, and the man become a living being.” Without God breathing life into us, we wouldn't exist. God as Chris and Lady A. sing, “is the air I breathe.” And that is just our physical life. God breathed Spiritual life into us at our baptism and we became his children. God is our creator and our Redeemer. He gave us life twice, once at our birth and again at our baptism. What a powerful thought. He truly is the air we breathe. Listen to this song and think about who God is to you. I pray it's your Creator and Redeemer.

[Chris Tomlin - Who You Are To Me \(Lyric Video\) ft. Lady A](#)

Monday, October 5, 2020

Devotion - Scripture: Deuteronomy 16:15; Song “Come Ye Thankful People Come”

Lots of things have stopped because of Covid-19 but farmers have not. The Lord has continued to provide them with rain and sun and everything else needed to get to this point of the year we call the Harvest. Just drive around the area outside of town and you will run into combines and trailers and tractors and whatever else is needed for the harvest. Farmers have always been thankful people especially at times like this when they are blessed with a harvest. Our hymn for today, “Come Ye Thankful People Come” is a reminder of who the farmers and all of us really need to thank. It's the Lord of the Harvest himself, our faithful God. God called the people to celebrate his faithfulness and the harvest in Deuteronomy 16:15 with these words: “For seven days celebrate the feast to the Lord your God at the place the Lord will choose. For the Lord, your God will bless you in all hour harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.” We are so tempted during these times of tribulation and stress to complain and moan but we needed to be reminded that the Lord continues to bless during these times. We still are able to go

to the grocery store and reap the benefits of the harvest. We don't really lace for anything that way. We have a comfortable place to live and adequate transportation to get around. And we have Jesus to take care of our greatest need, forgiveness for our sins. We should be able to be workers in the harvest, sharing the blessings we have with others who might not be thankful, especially those who don't yet know Jesus. God invites to be thankful people and come, come to the harvest. As the hymn says, "Lord of harvest, grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be." Covid-19 or not, God is still good and blesses us with the harvest. Listen to the hymn and appreciate who God is. Have a great day in Jesus!

[Come, Ye Thankful People, Come](#)

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Devotion - Scripture: I John 4:19; Song "Live Like That"

What a difficult time we live in. Covid-19 continues to rear its ugly head. The presidential election looms and after seeing a bit of the debate last week I'm not sure either choice is good. They certainly didn't treat each other well and that seems to be a theme in our country right now. The protestors get violent and they certainly aren't treating others well either. So, what do we as Christians do and how do we respond to all this? Today's song, "Live Like That" by the Sidewalk Prophets gives us a clue and our Scripture verses from I Hon 4: 19 and 29 make it even clearer. The Sidewalk Prophets ask a question, "Am I proof that you are really who you say are? That grace can really change a heart..." And we know who God says he is, right? In I John, John tells us "God is love." And as Christians then we answer to the Sidewalk Prophets question, if we love. Here's why. I John 4:19 says, "We love because He first loved us." Then John goes on to say in verse 20, "If anyone says, 'I love God' and hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God, who he has not seen." Wow! What a challenge. If we don't love those folks who are creating havoc in our lives and in our world, we don't love God. Our song says, "I want to show the world the love you gave for me," and that's why we can love those brothers and sisters who bother us so much right now for whatever reason. The love God showed us is Jesus, of course. As John 3:16 points us so clearly, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes should not perish but have eternal life." We love and forgive these people because we are loved and forgiven. That doesn't mean we condone or join in the behaviors that are so bothersome. But we do treat them with respect and

show love to them in any way possible. As the song says if we want to change the world, we need to "Live Like That." Pray for change and do what you can to change the world, if "You Want to Live Like That. Listen to the song and be energized to "Live Like That."

[Live Like That - \[Lyric Video\] Sidewalk Prophets](#)

Friday, October 9, 2020

Devotion - Scripture: Philippians 3:13-14; Song "Prize Worth Fighting For"

There is so much fighting going on right now. There is certainly fighting between candidates for political office. One of my favorite days is the day after an election because all the annoying commercials disappear from the radio, social media and television. Fighting over civil rights is another one right now as well. Are you racist or not? And if you are, then what should be done about it.? And there is fighting over Covid-19. Who's at fault? Who is right in how to deal with it? Who's in charge? Masks or no masks? In school or virtual? And on and on. The question posed by Jamie Kimmett in today's song title, "Prize worth fighting for." Are any of these things I have listed, "Worth fighting for?" The song is referring to a different goal and a different prize than any of these I have listed. It is referring to what Paul wrote to us in Philippians 3:13 and 14, "Forgetting what is behind and staining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Our song reminds us, the battle rages on, but your promise keep me strong. I know I'll win this race, with your unfailing grace." And we know that God's amazing grace is best show is the promise of Jesus, the Messiah given from Genesis to Malachi in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the Babe of Bethlehem who grew up to go the cross for us and was raised to prove that the victory, the prize of heaven is ours in faith given by amazing grace. So don't worry about these earthly battles that rage, turn them over to God in prayer as the song reminds us and focus on the "Prize worth fighting for", heavenward in Christ Jesus as Paul reminds us in Philippians 3. Listen to the song and follow it's focus. Heaven is the prize worth fighting for!

[Jamie Kimmett Prize worth Fighting for Lyric Video](#)

Monday, October 12, 2020

Devotion - Scripture: Psalm 103:11-22; Song “East to West”

Today’s devotion is number 110 since I started choosing songs and writing these devotions way back in March. We are coming up on the beginning of seven months of Covid-19 restrictions and it doesn’t seem like it will be over anytime soon. It’s tempting to blame the college students or those who won’t wear masks or the government’s poor leadership or a million other things we’ve seen on Facebook or the political commercials that everyone is more than tired of. Whose fault is it? Anybody but us, right? Jesus was asked the same question in the Gospels and he said, It’s not anyone’s fault except our sin but sometimes things happen to glorify God. Jesus pointed us to dealing with our own sins. And today’s song from Casting Crowns called “East to West” points us to the place we need to go to deal with our own sins. The song is based on our Scripture verse from Psalm 103:11 and 12: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” The song echoes these words and it talks about the same great love that our Scripture verses do. In the line after quoting Psalm 103, these are the words: “And I stand before you now, as though I’ve never sinned.” And the background is the cross. And that is the great love the song talks about and the Scripture as well. The love that allowed God to give us His one and only Son to suffer the punishment for our sins we deserve and removed our sins as far as the east is from the west. Listen to the song and rejoice that your sins have been removed as far as the east is from the west.

[East to West - Casting Crowns \[with lyrics\]](#)

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Devotion - Scripture: Matthew 27:46; Song “What is Bread”

As I have often said, each week I will try to choose at least one hymn. Today’s hymn is this week’s hymn. It is a beautiful hymn from the Lutheran Service Book entitled “What is this Bread?” It, of course, is a communion hymn. It’s talks about the body and blood of Jesus, given for us on the cross and still received today in the Lord’s supper. During the Virus crisis many have asked if God has forsaken us? The hymn asked why God has not forsaken us? And he hasn’t. It’s because of Jesus’ body and blood, given on the cross for us that he hasn’t. In Matthew 27 46 Jesus said, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And the answer is so that God does not forsake us. He took on the punishment and rejection we deserve so God will not forsake us. If you have conversations about the Covid-19 virus and the subject of God forsaking us, go to these words of Scripture and share why God has not forsaken us. Listen to the hymn and be encouraged that God will not forsake us, because of Jesus offering his body and blood for us. And to the question of the hymn, “What is the Bread?”, the answer is that it the body of Christ given for us as a guarantee that he won’t forsake us. What a blessing this is!

[What Is This Bread?](#)

Friday, October 16, 2020

Devotion - Scripture: John 20:29; Song “Fear No More”

Today’s song, “Fear No More,” by Building 420 is really appropriate with all the fear concerning the Covid-19 virus and the election and job losses. Building 429 suggests we have no fear. It’s hard to do that though because it means having faith in things unseen is tough. Peter experienced it when he wasn’t in the room and didn’t see Jesus. And then he said “Unless I see the holes in his hands and sides and touch the hole in his side, I won’t believe. Then the next week Peter saw him and believed. Jesus reached out his hand and allowed that to happen. Then he said to Peter, “Because you have seen me and have believed; Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” The song points us to the hope we have in Jesus, and encourages

to have faith in the unseen, just as Jesus does in our text. So listen to the song and how it illustrates how faith in Jesus can overcome our fear. There is no reason to fear. Life in heaven awaits and Covid-19 will be over.

[Building 429 - Fear No More \(Lyrics\)](#)

Monday, October 19, 2020 - Scripture: Psalm 78:52-53; Song: "O Little Flock Fear Not the Foe"

I decided to start out this week with a hymn so we can continue my plan of at least one hymn a week. There are some many things we fear right now. The pandemic, of course, is the main one. Cases are up across the nation and even on the other side of the Atlantic in Northern Europe. Hospitals are filling up and even in little Ionia County the cases are increasing at the fastest rate I can remember. Then there's the fact that the election is less than 3 weeks away and many of us fear we won't like the results. Satan seems to be winning again, at least from our human point of view. Today's hymn, "O Little Flock Fear not the Foe" is a great reminder that God's is in control that in Jesus God has already overcome the foe. The foe, of course, is Satan, he brought the sin into the world that allows the pandemic to run rampant. He brought sin into the world by tempting Adam and Eve into eating the fruit of the tree God said would cause them to die if they ate from it. Jesus has overcome our sin by His perfect life, death and resurrection for us. He did it for the people of Israel and he does it for us. Our Scripture for today reminds us of that. It's Psalm 78:52 and 53. The Psalmist wrote: "But he brought his people our like a flock, he led them like sheep through the desert. He guided them safely, so they were unafraid." He has done the same for us. Our hymn tells not to fear the foe who madly seeks your overthrow because Satan's power is temporary, it lasts but an hour. Then the second verse tells us to be of good cheer and to leave the avenging of our sin to the Lord who can overthrow Satan and already has through Jesus. So start the week by being of good cheer as you leave the pandemic and all your other concerns in the Lord's hand. He has overcome in Jesus and continues to overcome for us. Let the hymn comfort and encourage you.

[O Little Flock Fear Not the Foe - Traditional Choir](#)

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 - Scripture: John 11:25-26; Song: "Resurrection Power"

It's Wednesday, hump day as some call it, and if you are like me your power is waning. We start out with great intentions on Sunday as we worship together and it might even last until Monday as we begin another work week, but by Wednesday, yikes! I don't know about you but by midweek my power is waning if not

gone. Today's song is my answer to getting through the week, ramping up the power you might say. It's "Resurrection Power; by Chris Tomlin. My power really never existed because of my sin, my old nature. And I hear that every Sunday and that's the real reason I start out well. But by Wednesday, I am back to depending on myself which never works. Chris's song starts out the old has gone the new is here, I have resurrection power. The things I fear, including death, are overcome by Christ's resurrection power. And Jesus knew it was going to happen even before he died and rose. In John 11, he came to Mary and Martha, to grieve with them over the death of his friend and their brother, Lazarus. And he unleashed a hint of his resurrection power. Jesus asked Martha if she knew her brother would live again. And Martha said, "yes Lord at the resurrection on the last day." Then Jesus said something amazing, referencing his resurrection power. It's John 11:25: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." And I ask you as Jesus did to Martha, "Do you believe this?" She said yes and then Jesus unleashed a preview of this resurrection power by raising Lazarus from the dead, previewing his own resurrection and the power he would unleash. So, if you are having a rough hump day, listen to Chris Tomlin sing of Resurrection power and remember that is the power that will get you through today and until Christ comes back for you. The garbage we are facing today is temporary because you have "Resurrection power."

[Chris Tomlin - Resurrection Power \(Lyric Video\)](#)

Friday, October 23, 2020 - Scripture: Isaiah 43:1; Song: "Rescue Story"

It's Friday and by Friday, depending on myself has become another disaster, and I' am going to need a rescue story. For some, the rescue story might be going out to party after work on Friday night and washing away the failures with alcohol. For others, it might be preparing a great meal and eating the troubles away. Or it might be going to the High School football game now that they are playing again and cheering the failures of the week away. Now of those

rescue stories work though. We wake with a hangover or a stomachache or wit the same old problems that faced us the day before. Today's song, Rescue Story by Zach Williams is where I go for my rescue story, not only on Friday but every day. Zach sings of Jesus, "You were writing the pages "before I had a name before I needed grace." It reminded of the words of our Scripture where Isaiah writes in chapter 43, verse 1: "But now, this is what the Lord says- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." Before you were born, God formed you to be his. And he rescued you through Jesus because creating you wasn't enough, you sin broke the creation relationship, but in Jesus God has called you by name. Zach sings, where would we be without you Jesus, you are my rescue story." What a message our Scripture and song bring to us as we face another Friday, needing a rescue story. Start the weekend off right, knowing in Jesus, you have a rescue story, in Jesus, God has called you by name then join us in church on Sunday and hear the message again.

[Zach Williams - Rescue Story Lyrics](#)

Monday, October 26, 2020 - Scripture: Psalm 121:1-2 ; Song: "From Depths of Woe I Cry to You"

This Saturday, Lutheran Christians in particular, and most Protestants celebrate the Reformation, the day Rev. Dr. Martin Luther nailed the ninety-five theses on the door at the church in Wittenberg, Germany, challenging some of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Luther had spent much of his adult life trying to put his himself right with God, even to the point of whipping himself across the back so severely that he would pass out. Then he found the words of Romans 3, and God showed him that his righteousness with God came not but what he did, but by what Christ had done for him. Luther is known for writing some famous hymns including a Mighty Fortress is Our God, which I have

already shared as a song devotion and the Christmas children's hymn, "Away in a Manger." Today's hymn, "From Depths of Woe I cry to You," was also written by Luther. It is somber, reflecting the struggle Luther had in figuring out that his righteousness with God did not come from him doing righteous things and punishing himself when he did not do enough. Each of the verses is based on a Psalm and the version of the hymn you will watch and listen to, quotes those Psalms in between the verses. Psalm 121: 1 and 2 is one of the Psalms and our Scripture for the day, where the Psalmist writes, "I lift my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." So this week as you look forward to Reformation Day, October 31st, struggling like most of us are, with Covid-19 and all the other problems that sin brings into our lives, listen to this hymn. Don't be depressed by the somber tone, but comforted by the words as Luther shows us again, not to depend on ourselves to be right with God or even to solve our problems but rather to look to the Lord for mercy and hope. God has solved our greatest problem, sin, by sending Jesus. He is the source for solving all the rest of our problems as well.

[From Depths of Woe I Cry to You - Lyric Video - Christian Song](#)

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 - Scripture: John 11:36-43; Song: "Control (Somehow You Want Me)"

Most of us have struggled since the beginning of the pandemic but I think maybe the folks who have struggled the most are those who are used to thinking they are in control. They had a plan for their lives and they were going to live it, whether it fit God's plan for their lives or not. Then came Covid-19 and there went even the illusion of being in control and to these folks that has not been a good thing. Mental health issues have multiplied exponentially and the suicide rate is through the ceiling. For many though, God has used this pandemic to teach us that us not being in control is a good thing. It has taught us that he is in control and that is a good thing. Our song for today, "Control (Somehow You want me) by Tenth Avenue North" illustrates how this is working. They sing, "all

my obsessions, I want to lay them down, in your hands only your love is vital, though I'm not entitled..." Jesus says in our Scripture for today from John 15, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." And then he goes on to talk about his commands, and finishes by saying in John 15:11 and 12: My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. What an amazing thing that God loves us that much. His plan and his control is so much better than any plan we had before Covid-19 or when it's over for that matter. No wonder this group urges us to give up control to the one who loved us enough to send Jesus to die for us. If you are struggling with not being able to have enough control in your life with all these people telling to wear masks and how often to wash your hands and where you can go and not go, listen to the song and rejoice in the way God is in control. His plan for us is way better than any plan we have for ourselves and giving up control to the one who loves us this much allows us to be free to love others, to get rid of the selfishness in our lives that the elections and Covid-19 have caused most folks to have as their focus. God is in control and that is a blessing. Give up control to him.

[Tenth Avenue North - Control \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

Friday, October 30, 2020 - Scripture: 11:36-43; Song: "Rise Up (Lazarus)"

We have used a number of hymns and songs over the 117 song devotions that talked of the difference Jesus' resurrection makes in our lives including a song called "Resurrection Power" last week. Today's song points us to the resurrection is a slightly different way. It's "Rise Up (Lazarus) by a group called Cain. As you can tell by the title it points us first to the resurrection of Lazarus and so Our Scripture for today is John 11: 36-43, where Jesus does raise Lazarus. There Jesus prays that God would use the raising of Lazarus to lead people to believe that God has sent him and believe. Then he commanded Lazarus to rise up and come out and he did. It's another Friday after another long week dealing with Covid-19 and the elections ads ramping up as we are now only five

days from the election and our struggles to make it financially and all the family problems as well.

In the song this group reminds us the old is gone and new has come, that when he called your name like Jesus did for Lazarus what flows through veins is more than blood it's the kind of love that washes sin away. That what we need on Friday as we look back at how sin affected our week and caused us to despair. In fact, it's what we need every day. So listen to the song, "Rise Up (Lazarus)" and do just that, Rise up and be rejuvenated. Live in the hope and peace of Jesus' love for you, shown by his willingness to go to the cross for you, to save you from your sin. And God proved it was enough to cover your sin by raising Jesus from the dead. May that hope keep you going til we meet again on Sunday!

[Rise Up - CAIN \(Lyrics\)](#)