

"On your walls,
O Jerusalem I have
set watchmen
all the day and
all the night."

Isaiah 62:6

WATCHMEN ON THE WALL

Joy Above the Clouds

Watchmen Prayer Warriors,

Have you ever taken an airplane flight on a rainy day? As you taxi down the runway all you see is gloom, drizzle, general yuckiness. But as the plane takes off and begins to climb, you suddenly burst through the cloud cover into the brilliant sunshine that reflects off the top of the fluffy clouds. You realize by sight what you knew by faith...the sun is still shining despite the rainy gloom below.

I pray that we will remember in these unusual days that the sun is still shining today. Even when all seems gloomy, we can walk by faith in joy. Joy is mentioned 60 times in the Psalms. Through these writings, we learn that current messy circumstances are trumped by eternal truth, and we are able to be joyful.

Most importantly, the Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, is still shining today! When we spend time with Him, we find ourselves renewed because of who He is and what He does. He redeems us, recreates us, and continually renews our strength. Nehemiah put it well to people who were surrounded by "yuck," *"Do not grieve, because the joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10b)."*

Even as we dip down below the clouds and carry out what the Lord has called us to do, let's make sure that we regularly climb above the clouds to see the Son. The hymnist Helen Lemmel put it so well, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace."

As we find renewed joy in the Lord, may we continue to present our many requests to Him. Your prayers make a difference in eternity. In addition to the praises and requests below, please especially pray for:

- Search for Interim Pastor
- Committee on Committees as they seek to propose Pastor Search Committee
- New Senior Pastor and his family God has called out for Mobberly
- Mission-centered unity in Christ as we seek to share His love



Greg Martin
Pastor of Congregational Care

Special Prayers for All in These Times

2 Timothy 1:7 says, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” As believers, we have the authority which Christ has given us to pray about the spread of any disease and to pray for healing for those who have the Coronavirus.

- Praise God for His sovereignty. He is and always will be in control of all things. Pray that we will trust Him to help us navigate this season of uncertainty.
- Ask God in His mercy to stop this pandemic and save lives, not only in our communities but around the world, particularly in places that are unequipped medically to deal with the virus. (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom in this moment of fear as the foundations of what we know are shaken, that others would realize how fragile life is and how real eternity is, and they would see their need to turn to God. Scripture says: “Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.” (Psalm 90:12)
- Ask God to protect our missionaries and their families around the world, using this global crisis to advance His Good News to all nations. (Mark 16:15)
- Pray for wisdom for governmental leaders, the CDC, researchers, other medical personnel, leaders in churches and other strategic places to have the wisdom to direct us in the best courses of action for prevention and care. (Romans 13:1–4).
- Pray for the protection of doctors, nurses, crisis response teams, emergency first responders, researchers and other medical professionals who risk their lives to protect ours.
- Pray for comfort and healing for those stricken with this virus. Pray they will receive the quality health care they need to regain health and strength. Pray for their healing and for a treatment to cure and eradicate this virus.
- Pray for peace, calmness, freedom from fear, anxiety and panic among individuals and communities.
- Pray for racial understanding, peace and harmony. Pray that every person, each an image-bearer of God, would experience justice and protection. Pray for an end to violent confrontations.

Mobberly Worship Gatherings returned beginning May 24. With restrictions and guidelines in place to keep everyone as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, our campus schedule looks a little different. See websites below for the most current information.

Here are some places on our website (all accessible from our home page at mobberly.org) where you can get encouragement and information:

- View Worship Gatherings online (mobberly.org/online)
- Sign up for upcoming preschool classes – see above (mobberly.org/rsvp)
- Prayer concerns (mobberly.org/pray)
- Video devotions from Mobberly Staff (mobberly.org/devotion)
- How we can be the church by connecting, serving, giving (mobberly.org/bethechurch)
- Give to the Lord through Mobberly (mobberly.org/give)
- Information about Mobberly and COVID-19 (mobberly.org/corona)
- Stay connected with our social media accounts at **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Twitter**.
- Subscribe to our **email news** list.

Praise: Praising God for who He is and for what He is doing.

- God gives great joy.
 - **Psalm 16:11 (CSB):** *“^{10b}Do not grieve, because the joy of the Lord is your strength.”*
 - **Psalm 94:18-19 (CSB):** *“¹⁸If I say, “My foot is slipping,” your faithful love will support me, Lord. ¹⁹When I am filled with cares, your comfort brings me joy.”*
 - **1 Peter 1:8 (CSB):** *“⁶ Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy,”*

Praise the Lord:

- For God’s continued guidance for the leadership of Hope Road.
- That the staff of Hope Road had time to retreat together to allow God to work in and through them, as individuals and as a team, that only He can accomplish.
- In the midst of the storm, God is still with His people and opening doors to share His love with others.
- Many people have returned to Worship Gatherings and Connect Groups. Our on-campus attendance is growing each week.
- For leading people to salvation through online Worship Gatherings.
- That East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) students are returning with a passion to serve.
- We had many guests on the Marshall campus on August 16 including freshman college students here for the fall semester.
- That our senior adults, some of whom had not been on campus since March, were able to come for a Worship Gathering held just for their age group. It was so good to see their faces!
- For the creativity and hard work our worship and media teams have put into the re-design of our Longview Worship Center platform to accommodate more people while socially distancing.
- That some of our orchestra and praise team members were able to return and lead us in worship!
- We had a great August GO Share Blitz in our community! One particular family has started attending from this Blitz, the pre-teen was saved at Pre-teen Camp and the dad was baptized recently.
- We have had the blessing of baptisms almost every week since July.
- For the successful return of all our children’s ministry classes. As a children’s ministry staff, we praise God highly and rejoice in His leading, provision and kindness to us. Our joy in Him has certainly been our strength.
- For God’s continued blessings over the health and safety of our kids and leaders.
- For getting to be back in our youth groups and regular Wednesday night activities.
- For providing leaders, new and returning, to lead our youth on Sundays.
- That we have seen almost all of our students back on Sundays and are seeing more students return each week on Wednesday nights.
- Just this week the Lord sent three adults to be on the college ministry leadership team.
- Several new families have visited our campus the last two weeks.
- That God has restored the relationship of two young newlywed adults and is bringing them out of addiction.

- For the Longview campus women's leadership team that gathered on Sunday, Aug. 23 to prepare and pray over the fall semester. We were able to bow before the Lord together and surrender the coming months over to Him and celebrate His faithful love over our church.
- For the local women's organizations working to help women in crisis recognize the God who restores and loves perfectly. We praise Him for the opportunity to pray and serve them in the coming months as they continue to do ministry in unique ways through the limitations of COVID-19.
- Our Tuesday morning Family Services benevolence ministry has reopened its ministry! Five people have put their trust in Jesus through the ministry of this team since our last Watchman report! Pray for these new believers as they grow in Christ: Wendi, Timmie, Leslee, Patricia and Kason.

Repent: Of sins committed and commands neglected.

Our ongoing sins disrupt our fellowship with our heavenly Father. This is why we need to repent of our sins and confess them to God. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9, CSB)

As you pray, take time to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal your sins. Think through various areas of your life: sins of thought, sins of attitude, sins of omission, sins of commission, sins of self-rule, sins of self-reliance, or sins of relationships. Ask God for the grace to repent and to restore your fellowship. Then thank God your sins have already been paid for by Christ. Rest in His unfailing love.

Ask: When our hearts are God-oriented in praise and purified through repentance, then we are ready to "Ask." God encourages us to come boldly to Him and ask. *"Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need."* (Hebrews 4:16, CSB)

Ask God:

- To allow the encouragement and connection of local pastors through the breakfast hosted by Hope Road on Sept. 1. Pray that through this time together, God would continue to bring joy and strength as these relationships are nurtured.
- To continue to provide the resources needed for the "Hero Fund" scholarships that meet the needs of those needing counseling at Hope Road who cannot afford it.
- To guide families that are balancing health, safety and school choices.
- To keep children in vulnerable situations safe.
- To provide for the health and safety of our area social workers.
- To allow Celebrate Recovery (CR) participants and leaders to stay focused on their recovery and not let fear and anxiety overcome them during this time of social unrest.
- To bless the ministry leaders of various churches in South Dakota as they begin the work of creating trauma-informed ministry in their churches.
- To encourage the people in the Black Hills region of South Dakota to participate in these trauma-informed ministries as they come online.
- To give health and safety for the leaders and participants of our fall Thrive! University support groups.
- To give wisdom and flexibility to accommodate the ebb and flow of the COVID-19 crisis.
- To bless Connect Groups in Marshall that are regathering and relaunching.

- To raise up a couple (30's-40's) called to co-lead a Sunday morning Connect Group in Marshall.
- For our Marshall campus senior adults and at-risk members and guests to experience the joy of the Lord while worshipping from home.
- To comfort the families of Mobberly suffering through loss of family and friends.
- To encourage members who are comfortable with public interaction to be inspired and obedient in doing more than they would normally do so that we can be effective in first impressions, children's ministries and providing adult Bible study opportunities.
- To provide creativity in using our space on the Marshall campus to provide as many classes as possible for all ages.
- For continued protection from the COVID-19 virus for our church as we return to our campuses with more scheduled activities.
- For great wisdom, discernment and dependence on God for the Committee on Committee members as they select those to be recommended to serve on the Pastor Search Committee.
- That He will make Himself known and make it obvious who Mobberly needs to name as our Interim Pastor.
- To help the Mobberly families who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 virus, asking that they would find work quickly and see God's provision.
- For God's supernatural healing of Gregg Zackary and His abundant provision for the Zackary family.
- That our GO Share Class will be well attended, and that God will allow many spiritual conversations for people to come to Christ or come back into relationship with Him.
- That the "Who's Your One?" Tour, Oct. 25 - 26 will be well attended, and participants will be motivated and equipped to share Christ with family and those in their sphere of influence.
- To provide MUCH NEEDED preschool, children and preteen leaders to help teach kids of the wonders of God's joy and strength.
 - About half of our Sunday and Wednesday leaders are not returning. However, our children are returning, and we need men and women who will serve alongside us.
 - We have children on waiting lists that we cannot get into a classroom this week due to lack of leaders and social distancing guidelines. Pray that hearts are moved, and ears listen to God's voice concerning this need.
 - We are praying for 100 people to step up to lead in our preschool and children's ministries.
- To give rich, deep, satisfying and personal quiet times for our children's ministry staff.
- To help our kids as they readjust to being in class at Mobberly and in school. Pray that their hearts and minds would be peaceful and calm.
- To help students feel comfortable returning to church, and that more students return on Wednesdays.
- To provide more leaders in the youth area on Wednesday nights.
- To lead as we plan youth events for the fall and spring semesters. There is still much uncertainty, making it challenging to plan for events like Spark Weekend, Mission Trips, etc.
- To lead in making early semester connections with college students.
- To help us connect with young singles that are hurting and need a church home.
- To provide health, safety and the ability to complete a full semester of women's Bible study together in person.
- For wisdom in how Mobberly women can better serve our community partnerships.
- For wisdom in how we can continue to grow new leaders of all backgrounds, ages and ethnicities in Mobberly's ministry to women.
- For the Men's Ministry discipleship training which occurred Aug. 28-29, as well as the "BetterMan" men's discipleship class which will be starting in the fall. ("To leverage" at the start of this didn't

make sense...you have to leverage it FOR something...and that wasn't included, so I just changed it to "pray for")

Yield: To what God says to me. Yield my will to the will of God. Yield my agenda to the plan God has for my life. We must be willing to yield our desires and our thoughts to God's sovereign wisdom. As Jesus faced the cross, He prayed in Matthew 26:39 (CSB), "*My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.*" We must pray with that same spirit, humbly yielding our will to God's will. To close our prayer by "yielding" to God is a way where we submit our desires to Him. In the end, it is our way of acknowledging His will, which is what will truly satisfy us anyway. God's will and plan is better than ours. He knows the end from the beginning, and He loves us more than we can ever imagine.

"^{10b}Do not grieve, because the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10b [CSB]
