



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

Isaiah 62:6



WATCHMEN ON THE WALL



A Thrill of Hope

Watchmen Prayer Warriors,

I love Christmas, and I love Christmas music. My soul is always stirred by Christmas carols. Perhaps my favorite carol is "O Holy Night." The first verse delivers the amazing hope of Jesus' birth:

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining... It is the night of our dear Savior's birth... Long lay the world, in sin and error pining... 'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth... A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices... For yonder breaks, a new and glorious morn.

I always relate to the shepherds. Imagine them as they approached the stable, still in awe of the multitude of angels who had brought these incredible tidings to them and given them directions to see this miracle. Did they approach the stable quietly? Was there stillness in the air, a palpable sense of wonder at what they would find in that stable? Could this baby really give their lives true worth?

When they peeked around the corner they saw a father, a mother... and a tiny baby in a manger stall. In this precious, perfect, virgin-born baby was a thrill of hope for their hearts – a Savior is born. The long-awaited Messiah has come to bring hope. Hope for forgiveness of our sins. Hope of restoration to fellowship with our Creator. Hope of God's presence and power in our lives. Hope of eternal life... that what we face are *"light and momentary troubles [that] are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all"* (2 Corinthians 4:17, NIV). What joy must have flooded their souls!

Oh, and one more thing. Luke 2:17-18 says, *"¹⁷After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."* In 2 Corinthians 3:12 we too are challenged: *"Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness."* We are called to boldly proclaim our testimony of how Jesus has changed our lives.

As we come to the end of 2020 there is almost a hushed silence as we wait to see what 2021 will bring. We can cower in fear of the future, or we can know the thrill of hope. The Merriam Webster dictionary defines "hope:" to expect with confidence." That holy night so long ago gives way to a new and glorious morn for us as we confidently expect and experience what only Christ can do.

As you engage in your Watchmen prayer time in December please pray for every member, ministry and mission of Mobberly. May God give us power to proclaim to a pining world that this tiny baby – God in human flesh – came to give hope and worth to every soul that will trust in Him!



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.” (Psalms 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 and children’s classes – see above (mobberly.org/rsvp)
- Find information about the Pastor Search Committee and process (mobberly.org/psc)
- Prayer concerns (mobberly.org/pray)
- Video devotions from Mobberly Staff (mobberly.org/devotion)
- 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 revealed Himself to us in Jesus.
 - **Matthew 1:23 (CSB):** *“²³See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated “God is with us.””*
 - **John 1:1, 14 (CSB):** *“¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*
 - **John 14:9 (CSB):** *“⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

Praise the Lord:

- Pastor Search Committee:
 - Praise God for powerful unity, openness, and faithfulness to serve within the Pastor Search Committee (Ephesian 4:3; Galatians 5:22-23; Hebrews 3:5)
- God gave us 3 professions of faith on our last night of GO Share visits. Praise God for a great Fall semester of being able to share the gospel with so many in our community.
- That we can “expect with confidence” that God will be at work in Mobberly in 2021, and that we will see Him move in mighty ways!
- We are so thankful for how God continues to protect our Children’s Ministry leaders and kids while they are in our care.
- We are so thankful for the 17 kids that were baptized on Nov. 8 as they proclaimed they have decided to follow Jesus!
- It was an answer to prayer that we were able to have recent Student Ministry special events. Thank you for praying with us for these.
- For answered prayer – most of our kids in Fall sports were able to play and finish their seasons.
- For our student worship team.
- For the many servant leaders He is raising up in our Student Ministry.
- We continue to see new college students connecting with our church.
- For amazing Serve Day stories.
- CP YA and College Students serving in Children’s and Youth Ministry.
- For our Connect Group leaders that have so faithfully reached out to members throughout this COVID season, providing many practical supports to families as they have faced great challenges.
- For the growth in our Women’s Ministry leadership council. Pray for Roxanne Browning, Karen Bozeman, Hannah Herrera, Christy Myers, Renee Robertson and Sandy Trippett as they prayerfully serve women through the 2021 year.
- For the ability to complete a full semester of women’s Bible study together in a chaotic season of illness and loss. God’s Word is our solid ground and unwavering hope!
- For great attitudes and big sacrifices from volunteers and leaders during a difficult season.
- Almost 2000 candy bags and invitations were given to elementary school students in Marshall on Halloween.
- That two Baby Blessings were held at the Marshall campus in November.

- In the midst of the storm, God is still with His people and opening doors to share his love with others.
- New volunteers are stepping into Thrive! Ministry leadership roles and knocking it out of the park.
- For the Hope Road Counseling Advisory Council and the support, encouragement and insight they bring to the Hope Road staff and ministry.
- For being chosen by our community once again as the #1 “Best Counseling Services in Longview” in the Longview Guide, Locals Love Us.
- For Trena Barham, M.A., LPC-S, joining the Hope Road Counseling team part-time at the beginning of January to handle some of the female client caseload helping to resolve the wait list that we currently have.
- For Krysten Matthews who will be working part time in the front office at Hope Road Counseling.
- For God’s continued provision of wisdom, health, strength, healing and perseverance for the Hope Road staff in navigating this extremely difficult year yet bringing and bearing hope for their clients.
- Our Tuesday morning Family Services benevolence ministry continues its vital ministry. Seven people have put their hope in Jesus through the ministry of this team since our last Watchman report! Pray for these new believers as they grow in Christ: Aurelia, Casey, Patricia, Dion, Brianna, Cheri, and Shannon.

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.”* (I 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:

- Pastor Search Committee:
 - Ask for protection from spiritual warfare and that the Pastor Search Committee would not be misled or rushed in the process of calling our next pastor. Pray for a powerful hedge of protection around the Pastor Search Committee and their families. (Ephesian 6:10-18)
 - Ask God to provide an accurate portrayal of our church, church culture, and the biblical characteristic and pastoral role in creating a pastoral job description that would attract the right applicant and his family. Pray for God's supernatural direction in how resumes are collected, examined, and candidates are interviewed. Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the team. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 55:8-9)
 - Ask the Father to cause this season to be a time of deep healing, cleansing, and renewal in our church. (Psalm 66:18; 139:23-24).

- Ask God for the future pastor and his family to begin to seek God's direction for a move to our church. Ask God to create an absolute certainty in their sense of a call to our church. (Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 3:5, Proverbs 16:3).
- To help our Spring 2021 semester of GO Share and allow more people to join us as we share the gospel each week.
- To encourage more of our families to choose to return to worship in person on campus.
- For continued protection from the COVID-19 virus for our church as we possibly travel and gather with others over Thanksgiving.
- To keep Worship and Media staff/volunteers healthy as they work on the plans for Christmas.
- To use the pre-recorded Christmas Eve service to minister to and encourage all those who view it. Ask that those who do not know Christ as Savior might turn their lives over to the One who is our only hope.
- To provide adults who are willing to step forward to lead in Children's Ministry classrooms on Sunday mornings so we can continue to open more rooms to allow more kids and families to hear about the love of Jesus.
- To continue to give good health to our Children's Ministry staff, leaders, and kids.
- To give us wisdom and discernment as we plan Spring/Summer events in the Youth Ministry.
- To encourage students who face various disappointments due to COVID.
- To help our students to be bold in sharing their faith and loving/serving others.
- To encourage once-involved families to sense the urgency once again to be involved in the Body of Christ.
- For wisdom as we develop a leadership team within our Young Adult Ministry.
- CP We have several single mothers in the YA ministry...praying that we can love them well and that they feel connected within the Ministry
- To provide His comfort for families grieving the loss of loved ones during this holiday season and for those that are facing the unique stresses of living in isolation during this COVID Virus.
- To provide safety and strength for the team traveling on a one day mission trip to serve at Operation Christmas Child's Dallas Processing Center on Dec. 9. They'll be preparing shoeboxes for shipment to locations around the world. Pray for those that will hear the gospel message as packages are delivered.
- To be with each of our women's leaders as many are going through major trials with health, family, grief and loss. These women faithfully serve Connect Groups, Bible study classes, our widows, single moms, the homebound or critically ill and partner with East Texas communities. Pray for God to sustain, strengthen and encourage our leaders.
- To bless the upcoming spring semester in the Women's Ministry. Pray that our women would return to plug in and that God would stir new women to connect with others around the hope of the gospel here at Mobberly.
- To lead at least one man from each Connect Group to be the Men's Ministry Representative and facilitate the men in his Connect Group as they go through the BetterMan curriculum in Jan.–Mar.
- To encourage Mobberly men to be willing to participate in the 11-week BetterMan journey along with other men in their Connect Group starting January 9, 2021. Ask that this curriculum will kick off a spiritual revival among the men of Mobberly.
- To provide a Worship Minister for the Marshall campus.
- To encourage continued commitment from key leaders in Marshall.
- To help the holiday schedule/format for Sundays in Marshall to encourage worship and group participation.
- To open doors to get back in schools for ministry in 2021.

- That those not at high-risk of complications due to Covid-19 would return to regular in-person worship.
- To bless as a Young Family Connect Group in Marshall is being reinvented for January.
- To give wisdom to families that are balancing health, safety, and school choices.
- To provide safety for children in vulnerable situations.
- To provide health and safety for our area social workers.
- To help Celebrate Recovery participants and leaders stay focused on their recovery and not let fear and anxiety overcome them during the holiday season.
- To help people dealing with the loss of meaningful human interaction during COVID.
- To comfort families grieving the loss of a loved one during the holidays.
- To give health and safety to the leaders and participants of our Thrive! support groups.
- For wisdom and flexibility to accommodate the ebb and flow of the COVID crisis.
- For wisdom and success of new 2021 marriage initiatives at Mobberly.
- For wisdom, strength, health and encouragement for each member of the Hope Road Counseling (HRC) staff as they navigate the increased cases of the coronavirus and adjust their schedules to meet with clients via video or phone sessions as needed.
- For wisdom in decisions regarding HRC Building Project.
- For God to prepare and guide the hearts and minds of the Hope Road Advisory Council as they prepare to meet this month to discuss present and future plans for this ministry.

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.

"¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord.""

Luke 2:10-11 [CSB]
