



A Boy Blowing on a Firebrand to Light a Candle, Godfried Schalcken (Dutch, 1643–1706).

August 9, 2026

Reflections

"The call to distinctiveness is heard strongly also in the NT. Perhaps the simplest and clearest example is Jesus' telling his disciples that they were to be salt and light . . . Salt and light are distinctive, penetrating, transforming — utterly contrasting to corruption and darkness. That is what Christians are called to be, as Israel was called to be holy. Once again, then, we find that an essential part of the mission of God's people is nothing other than to be what they are - by living out the holiness of God in practical everyday living. Mission is not something that happens when you go somewhere else. It starts in your own home and neighborhood. That is where we are called to be holy."

Christopher Wright

"What people don't realize is how much religion costs. They think that faith is a big electric blanket, when of course it is the cross."

Flannery O'Connor

"If a house is dark when nightfall comes, there is no sense in blaming the house, for that is what happens when the sun goes down. The question to ask is 'Where is the light?' If meat goes bad and becomes inedible, there is no sense in blaming the meat, for that is what happens when the bacteria are left alone to breed. The question to ask is 'Where is the salt?'"

John Stott

"We have been silent witnesses of evil deeds; we have been drenched by many storms; we have learned well the arts of equivocation and pretense; experience has made us suspicious of others and kept us from being truthful and open; intolerable conflicts have worn us down and even made us cynical. Are we still of any use? What we shall need is not geniuses, or cynics, or misanthropes, or clever tacticians, but plain, honest, straightforward men. Will our inward power of resistance be strong enough, and our honesty with ourselves remorseless enough for us to find our way back to simplicity and straightforwardness."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers From Prison*

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

I Will Sing

With my mouth I will tell of Your faithfulness
I'll declare Lord Your covenant with my life

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever
I will sing of the Lord's great love
I will sing of the Lord's great love forever
I will sing oh I will sing

Lord You are the glory of all our strength
Your presence along the way for all our days

Oh Lord God Almighty who is like You
Oh Lord God Almighty none beside You
Oh Lord God Almighty
All the earth and sky belong to You

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,

**to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.**

I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.

**Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them."**

Isaiah 42:5-9

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Jesus I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,

Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Father,
You taught us to pray for your kingdom to come and your will to be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Yet we confess that we have been reluctant to engage the brokenness of the world and the brokenness of our own hearts. We have avoided the neediness of those around us. We have been reluctant to admit our own need. We have not sought out the lost and the forgotten, though we know this is how you sought us out. We have lamented and condemned the darkness we see around us, but have not answered the call to shine your light wherever we go. Forgive us, change us, and renew us by your Spirit, so that we may make your glory known and lead others to follow you.
Through Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-7

RENEWAL SONG

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;

'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace

He breaks the pow'r of reigning sin,
he sets the pris'ner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean,
his blood availed for me.

Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones
your loosen'd tongues employ;
You blind, behold your Savior come;
and leap, you lame, for joy.

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

COVENANT OF BAPTISM

Olivia Grace Cannon

Jesus Loves You

Jesus loves you, this we know
For the Bible tells us so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves you,
Yes, Jesus loves you,
Yes, Jesus loves you,
The Bible tells us so.

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"Engaging the Persecuting World for Good"

David Speakman

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

The Lord Our God Is Good

The Lord our God is good The Lord our God is good Full of
kind-ness and com-pas - sion Mer-ci-ful and just The Lord our God is good The

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Let It Be So With Your Church

As our Jesus in love touched the leper
Offered grace when they'd cast a stone
As He ate with the outcasts and sinners
With His church let it be so

As He preached the good news of the kingdom
As He healed them both body and soul
As He gave up His life for God's children

With His church let it be so

Let it be so with Your church oh God
We are Your hands and feet
As Jesus bent low to serve in love
So with us let it be
So with us let it be

Let us go with our Lord to the margins
To the broken the poor and the lost
By His Spirit we'll push back the darkness
Let His church take up her cross

Come help us Lord Jesus to love as You loved
Oh let it be so
We remember Your gospel how You first loved us
Oh let it be so
To seek justice love mercy and care for the weak
Oh let it be so
To live now in light of the kingdom we seek
Oh let it be so

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONGS

Behold

The empty filled, the wounded healed
The broken back together
The poor are blessed, the weary rest
We will dance forever

The blinded see, the chained are free
The doubtful now believer
The outcast known, the orphan home
You are my Redeemer

Behold, behold, behold what love can do
Behold, behold He's making all things new

The lost return, the voiceless heard
The mourner now rejoicing
The mountains shake, the world awake
Creation all composing

The sad untrue, the earth renewed
The song has found its singer
The darkness light, the dead alive
You are my Redeemer

We've been struck down, but we're not destroyed
We've sown in tears, we'll reap in joy

My eyes are open, My eyes are open

SENDING

SENDING SONG

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

Your labor is not in vain
Though the ground underneath you
Is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping are never the same
But your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown
Though the rocks they cry out
And the sea it may groan
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
But your labor is not unknown

For I am with you I am with you
I am with you I am with you
For I have called you
Called you by name
Your labor is not in vain

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth
For all that is old will at last be made new
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit

The houses you labored to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled
The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
And all that is broken be healed

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

LIFE TOGETHER

HOPE FOR THE CITY

Kids Outreach Project for Speas Teachers: Shopping list in Looking Up.

CHURCH LIFE

Volunteers Needed for Children's Worship Classes and Sunday Schools: See Lisa.

Fall Schedule resumes Aug 16: Worship at 8:30/11am; Hope Cafe between services.

Life Group registration for the fall is now open in Church Center.

Sunday School starts Aug 16 10am for all ages, including nursery.

Summer Splash at the Quarry - Aug 29 10am-3pm: Picnic + swimming: Register.

Gathering Hour - Aug 31 8-9pm: All women welcome at Lot63!

Women's Bible Study & Men's Cohorts begin the week of Aug 31: Register now.

First Wednesday Fellowship Dinner - Sept 2 5:30-7pm: All welcome!

Kingdom-Ministry Prayer Service - Sept 2 7pm: Please join us in Rm 107.

Thursday Morning Prayer - 7-7:30am starting Sept 3 in Rm 107 with David.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

6th Grade Kickoff - Aug 9 5:30-7pm: Cake Wars! Register.

All Youth and Parents Kickoff - Aug 16 4:30-6pm: Please register for childcare.

Kids Connection - *August Verse* - Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Matthew 5:7

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF AUG 4, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$790,479	\$806,986	-\$16,507	-2.05%
Expense	\$910,828	\$927,908	-\$17,080	-1.84%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$120,348	-\$120,922		

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,558,309

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE UPDATE

Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received Beyond Commitments	Total Funds Received to Date
\$9.4 million	\$5,243,302	\$761,396	\$4,865,339