

Worship Service ~ *What Happened to My Angel?*

22th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B,

20th October, 2024

Matt. 18:1-7, 10 NSRV / Daniel 10:1-14 / Acts 12:1-11 NSRV

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

Gathering Together

Welcome

Good morning, Please stand with me, if you're able, and hear the Lord call us into worship.

Call to Worship

One: God invites us into his healing presence with these words:

“I am the Lord, who heals you.”

All: Diseased, depressed, dysfunctional, defeated, we come hungering for health that only God can provide.

One: God calls us to bring open eyes, hearing ears, and tender hearts turned toward him, the Great Physician.

All: We bow before him in faith and expectancy!

Invocation

Our God, we praise you for creating this world in all beauty, for redeeming the world through Christ, our Lord, and for sending us the gift of your Spirit to encourage, instruct, and sustain us.

We long for your Spirit to work among us now, to inspire our praise, to challenge us with your truth, and to equip us for service in your world. Amen.

Engaging with God Together

Scripture Reading ~ Matthew 18:1-7, 10 ~ Daniel 10:1-14

Matthew:

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' **2** He called a child, whom he put among them, **3** and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

6 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. **7** Woe to the world because of stumbling-blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling-block comes!

10 'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

Daniel

In the third year of King Cyrus of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. The word was true, and it concerned a great conflict. He understood the word, having received understanding in the vision.

2 At that time I, Daniel, had been mourning for three weeks. **3** I had eaten no rich food, no meat or wine had entered my mouth, and I had not anointed myself at all, for the full three weeks. **4** On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris), **5** I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen, with a belt of gold from Uphaz around his waist. **6** His body was like beryl, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the roar of a multitude. **7** I, Daniel, alone saw the vision; the people who were with me did not see the vision, though a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled and hid themselves. **8** So I was left alone to see this great vision. My strength left me, and my complexion grew deathly pale, and I retained no strength. **9** Then I heard the sound of his words; and when I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a trance, face to the ground.

10 But then a hand touched me and roused me to my hands and knees. **11** He said to me, 'Daniel, greatly beloved, pay attention to the words that I am going to speak to you. Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you.' So while he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling. **12** He said to me, 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. **13** But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. So Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia, **14** and have come to help you understand what is to happen to your people at the end of days. For there is a further vision for those days.'

Let's greet one another with the peace of Christ as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Sharing Announcements and Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer (responsive) Prayer by pastor

Various times throughout the prayer the pastor and congregation will respond with the following:

One: Lord in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer.

Hymn **Children of the Heavenly Father ~ 616**

Hearing the Word Together

Sermon Passage ~ Acts 12:1-11

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. **2** He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. **3** After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) **4** When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. **5** While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

6 The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. **7** Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. **8** The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' **9** Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. **10** After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. **11** Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

Sermon ~ *What Happened to My Angel?*

Rev. John Braun

Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the peace of Christ guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. May we be thankful. May we be filled with God's compassion, love, and mercy for one another. May we be at peace with one another. May we have peace in our hearts. May we go forward knowing the love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ is with us, now and always. Amen.

Responding to the Word Together

Call to Serve

As you have been fed by Christ; go feed the hungry. As you have been set free by the gospel; go to set free all kinds of prisoners. As you have received; give. As you have heard the word; proclaim it to others. As God has worked gracious redemption and sanctification in you; testify to it. As you see God's righteousness and peace around you; point it out.

And in everything, where there is need beyond you, blessing unearned by you, sorrow that threatens you, or joy that overwhelms you; pray. As we listen to Annie play, reflect on where Christ might be calling you to extend his grace.

A Time for Reflection

Played by church musician Annie Center,

Hymn

Wonderful Grace of Jesus ~ 150

Benediction

Short prayer by pastor

Postlude

played by church musician Annie Center,

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