

## OPENING HYMN #42

All Hail the Power

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kevin, Kimberly and the kids are all packed up and ready to leave tomorrow for their journey here. They plan a couple of stops along the way, visiting with pastor Eric Lutter and the folks at Grace Baptist Church of the Ozarks next Sunday. The Lord willing Kevin plans to preach for us beginning Sunday, January 5.
  - If you would like to offer a special gift to help resupply the pantry for the Thacker family upon their arrival it would be greatly appreciated. Please use an envelope or mark your check for that purpose.
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## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 85:1-13

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## WORSHIP HYMN #308

Higer Ground

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## OFFERING

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor 9:7

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## WORSHIP HYMN #53

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

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## MESSAGE - Pastor Don Fortner

THE WAY

ISAIAH 35:8-10

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## CLOSING HYMN #290

Be Still My Soul

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## THINGS TO PONDER

“... Abound in this Grace also.” 2 Cor. 8:7

Dishonest preachers will tell people if they give their money to the church, God will bless them. Truth is, having a willing heart to give cheerfully, regularly, and sacrificially, IS the blessing. It is a work of grace in the heart. What greater blessing is there than that?

*-pastor Greg Elmquist*

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To all who vainly imagine that the grace of God is a license to sin God the Holy Ghost says, “Ye have not so learned Christ.”

*-pastor Don Fortner*

## Be Strong, Fear Not: Behold, Your God!

*Isaiah 35:4*

This is God's command to all his preachers: "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God!" Our commission is a most blessed one. We are sent to preach the gospel of peace, to comfort God's people by encouraging their faith in Christ (Isa. 40:1-2). God takes great care to supply his people with comfort (Isa. 43:1-5); and it is the preacher's job to convey that comfort to them.

The word "fearful" in our text means "hasty". Fearful men and women are always hasty. They jump to conclusions based upon their present circumstances. Fear is never wise, patient, or reasonable. The fearful heart says, with Jacob, "all these things are against me!" Brother Fearheart forgets the promises, the providence and the power of God. Sister Fearheart forgets the truth, wisdom and faithfulness of God. Acting on impulse, they get into trouble. They judge the Lord by feeble sense and fail to see his grace. They see the cloud of providence, but not God's smiling face. Fear and unbelief their hearts flood, increasing hour by hour. They taste the bitter, bitter bud, but not the sweetness of the flower. To you, Bro. and Sis. Fearheart, God says, "Be strong, fear not: Behold, your God!"

I do not mean to imply that fear and faith cannot live together in the same heart. I know that they do (Ps. 56:3). But fear is terribly inconsistent with faith and robs the believer of much comfort and joy. This is the cure for every fear that may arise in the believer's heart: "Behold, your God!" If you trust the Lord Jesus Christ, that God who rules the universe in total sovereignty is your God! There is never any cause for fear. Your salvation is finished! Christ has redeemed you. He has both put away your sins forever and given to you an everlasting righteousness with which God himself can find no fault. Your Savior is in complete control of the universe! He who is too wise to err, too good to do wrong and too strong to fail is your God; and he works all things together for your good. The glory of God, that which you desire above all else, is certain! Your God will, in, by and through all things, get glory to himself. Your troubles will soon be over! Soon, you will be with Christ in glory. So, "be strong, fear not: Behold, your God!"

*-pastor Don Fortner*

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The Holy Scriptures DO NOT teach that God loves everybody in the world. However, God's Word DOES teach that He loves everybody that loves, believes, and trusts wholly in His Son.

*-pastor David Eddmenson*

### **Not Far But Not In**

Mark 12: 34: And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

The charge Christ has given his pastors is “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.” (Isa 40:1-2) But we are not to comfort anyone who does not yet believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. The worst thing in the world would be to go to hell calling God our Father when we have not bowed the knee to Christ! The person to whom Christ spoke these words was very near. But Christ told him the truth. He did not say, “Thou art in the kingdom of God” but “Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.”

Perhaps, some here are not far from the kingdom of God. But not far is not in. May God comfort us in the assurance of faith when we truly believe on Christ. But if there be any who are not truly resting in Christ, may God make them see their need of truly believing on Christ. It is not enough to meet Christ standing as near as the threshold of faith. We must enter Christ the Door through faith in him. We must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thereby enter the kingdom of God.

*-pastor Clay Curtis*

### **The Importance of Faith**

Faith is the salvation grace. *“Thy faith hath saved thee.” “By grace are ye saved through faith.”*

But not only is it the salvation grace: it is the root of every other grace. You cannot trust Him and not love Him. Meekness comes from trusting Him in whatever He does with me. It is only the humble soul that looks to Him only. The joy and peace we experience comes in believing. Courage is the fruit of faith. Zeal comes from believing Him. Generosity is born of trusting Him for our needs. Patience comes from believing He is in control. Hope is derived from faith. Is it any wonder Paul said, *“Above all things take the shield of faith.”* Faith is the only moveable piece of the Christian armor. It protects the heart, the head, and everything else. Faith is the gift of His grace (*Ephesians 2:8-9*).

*-pastor Todd Nibert*

“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, His faith is counted for righteousness.”

*-Romans 4:4-5*

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[www.sandiegograce.com](http://www.sandiegograce.com)

Sunday 9:30 AM Bible Class lesson

10:30 AM Morning Worship Service

Wednesday 6:30 PM Mid-week Worship Service

Listen to the gospel at: [www.freegraceradio.com](http://www.freegraceradio.com)

**Sunday December 22, 2019**

**“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”**

*Rev 22:17*



**“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” 1Cor 8:6**