

July 16, 2021

Dear Friends,

### **Hope in Christ**

I am receiving your emails. Some of us are limping quite badly: worried, tired, discouraged, and dying.

Jesus is our hope. We do not put our hope in our own moral correctness. We do not put our hope in our ability to win arguments. We do not put our hope in our ability to set things right in the world. We put our hope in Jesus Christ. He is our go-to, our prime attachment. *To hope is to live with eyes wide open to the reality of Christ as Lord over the reality of the world as it presently is.* We align with Christ's rule and reign and participate with him, energized by his Spirit to bring his life and light to others.

Please, please, do not lose heart. Take some moments today to open your hands before Christ. Hold up your sorrows. Receive him. Jesus Christ is gentle and true. He meets you right now in *this* sorrow, *this* worry, *this* failure, *this* sin and offers himself to you. His death was a death for all of *this*. He took on your sorrows, and worries, and failures and sin, and he took them out; they have no eternal power. He does the heavy lifting, raising you - and others - to life in him.

This morning's Psalm (31) begins, "In you, LORD, I have taken refuge (v. 1)," and continues, "into your hands I commit my spirit (v. 5)," "I will be glad and rejoice in your love (v. 7)," "be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress (v. 9)," "I trust in you, LORD (v.14)," "my times are in your hands (v. 15)," "save me in your unfailing love (v. 16)," "praise be to the LORD, for he showed me the wonders of his love (v. 21)." And a final call: "Love the LORD, all his faithful people! The LORD preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD (vv. 23-24)."

### **Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.**

This Sunday we will hear from Pastor Matt as we wrap up our sermon series based on Paul's letter to the Galatians. I hope that the message of salvation as gift through faith in Christ has come through for us loud and clear.

We have four more Zoom services before moving into the new. See below to get a sense of our next steps as a community who proclaims that Jesus is Lord and follows him.

Please [contact me](#) for a Zoom link.

\*Please join the Zoom meeting after 9:30 a.m. to avoid problems entering.

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

### **The Future**

We are on our way into the new... We will continue to be the church, loving Christ, one another, and others. Let's be gracious, cheering each other along through these months of change and transition.

Ministries of discipleship and service continue, and new ways to live alongside each other are coming to be through youth group, life groups, prayer gatherings, 20toLife (for 18 up to 40), family ministries, community outreach, national and global partnerships in mission, and retreats.

For now, here are some emerging dates and details about Sundays:

*Sunday, August 8* – This will be the last Zoom service as we have known them, but not the last opportunity to tune in with Sunnyside online.

*Sundays, August 15, 22, 29* – We will gather as smaller groups in backyards for worship and prayer guided by a common simple order of worship. Registration for these backyard gatherings will open July 23. There will also be a Zoom small group worship and prayer option each Sunday facilitated by pastors Nathan Huff (August 15), Jesse Duncan (August 22), and Kerry Kronberg (August 29).

*Sunday, September 5* – We will hold worship gatherings at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Sunnyside sanctuary. We have purchased livestream equipment and will livestream 11 a.m. services for the month of September as we continue to discern the best use of technology going forward.

*Sunday, October 3* – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship Gathering and Party – Details to come next week.

“May the God of hope will you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

With love and prayers,  
Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)