May. 1, 2022

PRELUDE, OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP IN SONG

SONG: “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Verse 1: Amazing grace how sweet the sound;That saved a wretch like me;

I once was lost but now I'm found; Was blind but now I see

Verse 2: 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear; The hour I first believed

Chorus: My chains are gone I've been set free; My God my Savior has ransomed

Me;

And like a flood His mercy rains; Unending love amazing grace

Verse 3: The Lord has promised good to me; His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be; As long as life endures

Verse 4: The earth shall soon dissolve like snow; The sun forbear to shine;

But God who called me here below; Will be forever mine; Will be forever mine;

You are forever mine

SONG: “Call it Dreaming,” Iron & Wine

HYMN: “Morning Has Broken”

**Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.**

**Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!**

**Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, PARDON, AND PEACE

**We confess to you, all-knowing God, what we are. We are not the people we like others to think we are. We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves, what lies in the depths of our souls. But we cannot hide our true selves from you. You know us as we are, and yet you love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge. Teach us to respect ourselves for your sake. Give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask you to break their bondage and set them free; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

Psalm 30

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. 2 O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. 3 O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

4 Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

5 For his anger is but for a moment; his favour is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

6 As for me, I said in my prosperity, ‘I shall never be moved.’

7 By your favour, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain;

you hid your face; I was dismayed. 8 To you, O Lord, I cried,

 and to the Lord I made supplication: 9 ‘What profit is there in my death,

 if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

10 Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!’

11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth

 and clothed me with joy, 12 so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

 O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.

Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ 5He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The reply came, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.6But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’7The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ He answered, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ 11The Lord said to him, ‘Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, 12and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.’ 13But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; 14and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.’ 15But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; 16I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’17So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ 18And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, 19and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, 20and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’

SERMON, “Miracle on Straight Street,” Rev. Dr. Brian Bodt

\*HYMN: #43, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

JOYS & CONCERNS, PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH, LORD’S PRAYER

 Lord, in your mercy… **Hear our prayers.**

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PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SONG: “Chain Breaker”[[2]](#footnote-2)

Verse 1: If you've been walking the same old road; For miles and miles

If you've been hearing the same old voice; Tell the same old lies

If you're trying to fill the same old holes inside; There's a better life; There's a

better life

Chorus: If you've got pain He's a pain taker; If you feel lost He's a way maker; If you

need freedom or saving; He's a prison shaking Savior; If you got chains He's a chain

breaker

Verse 2: We've all searched for the light of day; In the dead of night; We've all

found ourselves worn out; From the same old fight; We've all run to things we

know just ain't right When there's a better life; There's a better life

Bridge; If you believe it; If you receive it; If you can feel it; Somebody testify

Ending: Oh if you need freedom or saving; He's a prison shaking Savior;

If you got chains well He's a chain breaker

BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE



**PRAYER LIST**

*To add to our prayer list please email Pastor Tim with a brief description of your prayer. Please indicate if you would like the prayer to be listed on an ongoing basis.* tim.hare@trumbullcc.org.

Bob & Rita Bennett, prayers for healing

Mitchel Archer, continued recovery and help with new prostheses

Muirgheal Coffin, prayers for continued good health as she struggles with seizure disorder

The Cunha Family, grieving the loss of their beautiful daughter Chelsea

The family of Jen Svelnys whose father, Algis, passed away on Feb. 14.

The Balogh Family grieving the loss of Mary after a very courageous battle with cancer.

Linda Mancinelli, cancer free and recovering well from surgery!

Sue and Tom Hill, grieving the loss of Sue’s mother, Kay Kisell

Douglas Mihalko, Karolina Szabo’s son’s brother in law, diagnosed with cancer

Rev. Sara Smith, recovering from a heart procedure

Oliver Tiesler, born on April 12 to Sophie and Paul! Praise God!

Trevor Vincent Sando, born on April 11 to Emily and Matt! Praise God again!

Meet Brian Bodt:

*Also preaching at TCC during Tim’s sabbatical! (Aug. 14, 21, 28, & Sept. 4)*

The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt is retired after 43 years of service as a United Methodist pastor, 33 of them in the greater Bridgeport/New Haven area. Rev. Hare is a friend as well as a colleague, and Brian is delighted with this opportunity to preach while he is away.

A third-generation U.M. pastor, Pastor Brian remains active on the Conference Board of Trustees, as a Clergy Mentor and as a leader for pastoral transitions. He is also a trained consultant for the *New Consecration Sunday* stewardship program.

 Pastor Brian received his Doctor of Ministry (with distinction) from Hartford (CT) Seminary; his Master of Divinity, *magna cum laude,* from Drew Theological Seminary in New Jersey and his Bachelor of Arts from Western Maryland College.

 Pastor Brian is married to Carol Galloway, M.S., Physical Therapist. Their immediate family includes Daniel, Melisa, Eva and Daniel Bodt of Fairfield, CT; Adam Schofield-Bodt and Katie Armstrong of Moodus, CT; Aaron Rattley of Woodbridge, CT and Ryan Rattley of Pittsburgh, PA.

 Brian runs, bikes, hikes, skis and plays with all kinds of trains, including being a professional railroader on the Valley Railroad in Essex, CT.

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2. CCLI Song # 7060031 Smith | Fieldes | Williams © 2015 Anthems of Hope All rights reserved. CCLI License # 11353163 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)