

# STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

October 15, 2023

Stewardship Series

Beyond the Offering Plate: A Holistic Approach to Stewardship

*“God is eternal; we are beautifully and painfully not...The eternal God is our dwelling place. But God’s eternity doesn’t give us unlimited time.”*

*-Maryann McKibben Dana*

WELCOME

Pastor Ben

PRELUDE

*Meditation on “Ubi Caritas”* Trad. Plainsong/  
Loren Rhodes arr. Douglas Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 90: 1-6, 12-17

**Everett Lattimer:** Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

**Ruth McDowell:** Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**All: Teach us to honor each day,  
so we may have a heart of wisdom.**

**Everett:** For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.

**Ruth:** You sweep humans away like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.

**All: Teach us to number our days,  
so we may gain a wise heart.**

**Everett:** Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Ruth:** Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen trouble.

**All: Teach us to count our days,  
so we may live with wisdom**

**Everett:** Let your work be seen in your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

**Ruth:** Let the kindness of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O make the work of our hands last!

**All: Teach us to live each day fully - with wisdom and love.**

\*SING

*God of the Bible*<sup>^</sup>

S Murray/T Alonso

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our center, daylight or darkness, freedom or prison,  
you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do  
not change. Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

Not by your finger,  
not by your anger will our world order change in a day,  
But by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful,  
you do not change. Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
through all our turmoil, tarot, and loss.  
Bonding us gladly one to another,  
till our world changes facing the cross.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful,  
you do not change. Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiasters 3:1-15

Laura White  
& Ruth McDowell

HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP

Emily Elder, Gifts Discernment

MUSIC *In My life, God, Be Glorified*<sup>^</sup> Bob Kirkpatrick

In my life, God, be glorified, be glorified.  
In my life, God, be glorified, today.

In my heart, God, be glorified, be glorified.  
In my heart, God, be glorified, today.

In my time, God, be glorified, be glorified.  
In my time, God, be glorified, today.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Pastor Cindy

PSALM 90 As Interpreted By Nan Merrill Laura White

CHORAL RESPONSE *When Long Before time*<sup>^</sup> Peter Davidson,  
Arr. George Black

When long before time and the worlds were begun,  
When there was no earth and no sky and no sun,  
And all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,  
And even our maker had only a dream...

The silence was broken when God sang the song,  
And light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,  
And with its first birthcries creation was born,  
And creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,  
To you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,  
To you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
Be glory forever, through life and through death.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Pastor Ben

SING *O God Our Help in Ages Past*<sup>^^</sup> 328

SERMON What Time Is It? Pastor Cindy

\*SONG *God, Whose Giving*<sup>^</sup> 383

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Cindy

POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Laudate Dominum"* C Hupert Parry/  
Loren Rhodes arr. Richard Williamson

*\*Please Rise, as Able, in Body or Spirit*

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**Let us know you  
were here!**



### **FOR FURTHER REFLECTION**

Think about your calendar as a theological document:

- To what do you give your time?

Do you intentionally set time aside for spiritual practices, rest, exercise, time with family and friends? Or do you simply hope those things will happen?

- Do you mind your margins?

Is there adequate space in your schedule for the holy interruptions that inevitably occur?

- Are you attentive to the seasons?

In a world addicted to excitement and novelty, are you able to embrace the quiet waiting and patient expectation of letting a moment ripen?