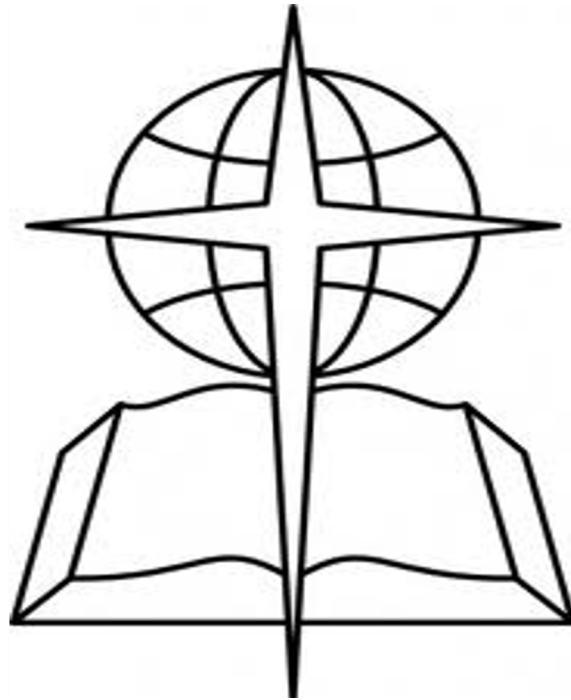


Soli Deo Gloria

To God Alone be the Glory



10:00 am Worship
February 19, 2023

MARKET STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Market St. Amesbury, MA 01913

978-388-0930 msbcsec@verizon.net

www.MSBCnews.org

ELDERS

Ron Fuller	603-895-6640 / lakeside11@comcast.net
Michael John (Pastor)	774.644.7585 / mejohn.msbc@gmail.com
Robert Roy	603-749-7467 / roblroy@juno.com
Mark Pouliot	978-621-7849/ info@mandhfurnituremakers.com

Order of Worship

Call to Worship & Prayer of Praise

Psalm 24

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,

**for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**

He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

Hymns of Praise

O WORSHIP THE KING (*Hymn #24*)

O worship the King, all glorious above
And gratefully sing His wonderful love
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space
His chariots of wrath, the deep thunderclouds form
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend!

WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR (*Hymn #162*)

Wonderful, merciful Savior, Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost our way
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way

*You are the One that we praise. You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

Almighty, infinite Father, Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throneall.

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OT Scripture Reading

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Prayer of Confession

Hymn of Response

BY GRACE ALONE (*Ward*)

Out of the depths I cry to You... Lord, hear my voice of pleading;
Bend down Your gracious ear, I pray,... Your humble servant heeding.
If You remember each misdeed, And of each thought and word take heed,
Who can remain before You? Only by grace, by grace alone.

Your pardon is a gift of love... Your grace alone must save us,
Our works will not remove our guilt; The strictest life would fail us.
Let none in deeds or merits boast, But let us own the Holy Ghost
For He alone can change us: Only by grace, by grace alone.

Though great our sins and sore our woes. His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows, Our utmost need it soundeth.
Our kind and faithful Shepherd He, Who will set all His people free
From all their sin and sorrow: Only by grace, by grace alone.

Scripture Readings

LUKE 3:1-18

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

JOHN 1:19-28

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Sermon

“Preparing the Way of the Lord”

I. THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN

A. His Confession (John 1:19-21)

- “I am *NOT* the C_____” (Psalm 2)
- “I am *NOT* E_____” (Malachi 4)
- “I am *NOT* the P_____” (Deut. 18)

B. His Message (John 1:22-23)

- The *Voice* C_____ out in the W_____
- “Make S_____ the W_____ of the Lord”

II. THE BAPTISM OF JOHN (John 1:24-28)

A. The Place: *Bethany Across the Jordan*

- Where J_____ led I_____ into Canaan (Jos 3)
- Where E_____ left and E_____ returned (2 Kings 2)

B. The Purpose

- To P_____ God’s S_____ (Is. 40)
- To W_____ of God’s W_____ (Ez. 34)

III. THE PREPARATION OF JOHN (Luke 3:1-14; Is. 58)

A. Every Mountain Made Low

- H_____ yourself before the L_____
- R_____ and B_____ the Gospel

B. Every Valley Filled

- L_____ and L_____ up the L_____

Hymn of Response

SPEAK, O LORD (*Hymn #432*)

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You To receive the food of your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us All Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise Cause our eyes to see, Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail; Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built And the earth is filled with Your glory.

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Commissioning of Leaders

Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn

LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL (*HYMN #659*)

Lead on, O King Eternal, The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong;
And now, O King Eternal, We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper The sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords' loud clashing, Nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy The heav'nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King Eternal, We follow, not with fears,
For gladness breaks like morning Where'er Thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us, We journey in its light;
The crown awaits the conquest; Lead on, O God of might.

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Benediction