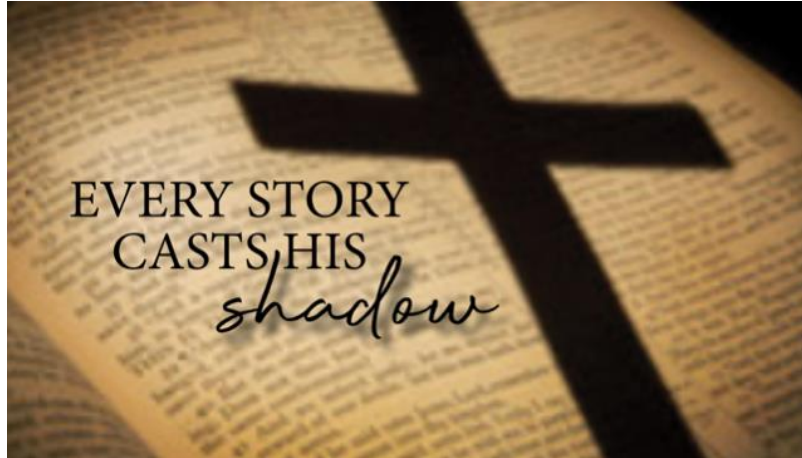


COVENANT CHURCH OF THOMASTON

*Passionately Pursuing Jesus
Sacrificially Serving Our Neighbor*



March 30, 2025
Worship 10:00 am
“The Fool and the Hero”
Judges 16

Pastor:

Rev. Stephanie Nelson
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Our mission

***is to go and be living evidence of God's love
by the transforming power of his forgiveness and grace.***

PRELUDE Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

WELCOME AND LIFE TOGETHER

CALL TO WORSHIP The Goodness of God

(verse 1)

I love you, Lord, for your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in your hands.
From the moment that I wake up, till I lay my head,
I will sing of the goodness of God.

(chorus)

All my life you have been faithful.
All my life you have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
I will sing of the goodness of God.

(verse 2)

I love your voice. You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, you are close like no other.
I've known you as a father; I've known you as a friend.
I have lived in the goodness of God *(chorus)*

(bridge)

Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me.
Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now,
I give you everything.
Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me

(chorus) (bridge) (chorus) .

(ending) I will sing of the goodness of God.

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Words and music by Jenn Johnson, Jason Ingram,
Ben Fielding, Ed Cash and Brian Johnson | CCLI 1481213

Glorious Day (Passion)

(verse 1)

I was buried beneath my shame.
Who could carry that kind of weight?
It was my tomb 'til I met you!

(verse 2)

I was breathing, but not alive.

All my failures I tried to hide.
It was my tomb 'til I met you!

(chorus)

You called my name; then I ran out of that grave,
Out of the darkness into your glorious day.
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave,
Out of the darkness into your glorious day.

Now your mercy has saved my soul.

Now your freedom is all that I know,
The old made new, Jesus, when I met you! *(chorus)*

(bridge) I needed rescue. My sin was heavy,
but chains break at the weight of your glory.
I needed shelter. I was an orphan,
but you call me a citizen of Heaven.

When I was broken, you were my healing.

Now your love is the air that I'm breathing.
I have a future. My eyes are open. *(chorus)*

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Kristian Stanfill, and Sean Curran | CCLI 1481213

PRAYER OF ADORATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD Liz Montambault
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Leader:

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

Congregation:

**Though we once regarded Christ in this way,
we do so no longer.**

Leader:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

Congregation:

The old has gone, the new is here!

Leader:

All this is from God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

Congregation:

**that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
not counting people's sins against them.**

Leader:

And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Congregation

**We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,
as though God were making his appeal through us.**

Leader:

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Congregation

**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, **
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Leader:

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation:

Thanks be to God!

Hymn #681 (v. 1, 3, 4)

I Love to Tell the Story

**OFFERING – GIVE AS THE LORD LEADS YOU, WITH OPEN HANDS
AND ALL YOUR HEART**

Offertory: Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

SPECIAL MUSIC

Way Maker

SERMON

Pastor Stephanie Nelson

“The Fool and the Hero”

Judges 16

SENDING SONG

Graves into Gardens

(verse 1)

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
are never enough.

Then you came along and put me back together,

And every desire is now satisfied
here in your love.

(chorus)

Oh, there's nothing better than you.
Oh, there's nothing better than you.
Lord, there's nothing - nothing is better than you.

(verse 2)

I'm not afraid to show you my weakness,
My failures and flaws, Lord, you've seen them all,
and you still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
There's not a place your mercy and grace
won't find me again. (chorus) (chorus)

(bridge 1)

You turn mourning to dancing. * * * * *
You give beauty for ashes. * * * * *
You turn shame into glory!
You're the only one who can! (repeat bridge 1)

(bridge 2)

You turn graves into gardens. * * * * *
You turn bones into armies. * * * * *
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can. (chorus) (chorus)

(bridge 2)

(ending) You're the only one who can!

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Words and music by Brandon Lake, Chris
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

• TODAY

9:00 am Sunday School / D/C
10:00 am Worship
Nursery: *Mary Butkevich* / Screen Monitor: *Peggy Schwetz*
11:15 am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Room)
11:45 am Bedosky/DeLotto shower (Fellowship Room)

• **PASTOR STEPHANIE** will be in Chicago for class Monday through Thursday of this week. She will be available via email and on her cell, but her response capabilities will be limited because of her time in class. If you have an urgent pastoral care need, please contact Cathy Fredlund.

• THIS WEEK

Mon. 10:30 am	39ers Study (Fellowship Room)
7:00 pm	Zoom Prayer
Tue. 5:00 pm	Prayer (church office)
Wed. 9:00 am	WM Planning (Conference Room)
6:30 pm	NA (Fellowship Room)
7:00 pm	Lenten Reflections (First Congregational)
Thu. 7:30 pm	NA Subcommittee (Gathering Room)
Friday-Sunday	EXHALE retreat (Pilgrim Pines)
Fri. 6:00 pm	Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)
Sun. 9:00 am	Sunday School / D/C
10:00 am	Worship
11:30 am	Church Board (Gathering Room)
11:30 am	Trailblazers/Pathfinders (Potter's)
4:00 pm	CHYG
7:30 pm	M&E Board (Zoom)

- **APRIL CALENDARS** are available in the Narthex and the wings.
- **BABY SHOWER:** Jessica Bedosky invites all the women of the church to a small baby shower for her daughter Rebecca after church **this morning** (11:45-1:30) We will have a brief devotional and refreshments. Your presence is the best gift.
- **ZOOM PRAYER:** Starting **tomorrow**, join us on Monday nights, 7:00-7:30 pm, to pray about our community, how to reach the lost and those who don't know Christ, and our congregation's prayer needs. Jessica Bedosky will email the link.
- **WM RETREAT:** The women's Exhale Retreat at Pilgrim Pines is April 4-6. WM has retreat scholarship funds; please see Christy Barrett or Martha Tillow for more info. **Register before April 2:** <https://www.pilgrimpines.org/exhale>.
- **FLOWERS TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER:** If you would like to purchase flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one, they will be \$12 each and there will be a variety. Email Dawn Johnson or see her at church by no **later** than

Sunday, April 13. Please pay her in cash or by a check (made out to Dawn Johnson, not the church) so she can track how much to give the florist. List how many flowers you want and who they are in memory of. A list of contributors and memorial dedications will be published in the bulletin on April 20.

- **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:** All our fire extinguishers have been tested and are in working order. Locations: 1) the Kitchen; 2) the Potter's House near the dehumidifier; 3) the coat room in the Narthex, just inside the main front door; 4) the hall running between the Nursery and the Gathering Room, behind a chair against the wall; 5) upstairs classroom hall across from the door to the Men's Room.
- **EASTER BASKETS:** As in past years, we are collecting items to fill Easter baskets for Thomaston children identified by the Thomaston Town Pantry. Bring any goodies to give by no later than April 13. The Crafty Friday group will fill the baskets.
- **KIDS' SNACK PACKS:** Snack Pack bags need donations. Please put "snack pack" in the memo of your check, or leave food donations on the Potter's House counter. Need: mac & cheese (microwaveable cups or the kind without milk & butter); individually packaged pretzels, Ritz bits, crackers, cookies or chips; granola bars; breakfast bars; individual cereal cups or boxes. Thank you!
- **NEW STOVES:** Women Ministries needs your help! The church Kitchen's two stoves need to be replaced. WM is contributing \$1,000, but more is needed. If you donate, please write "WM ovens" on your check memo line. Thank you!

- **GIVING MADE EASY:** Give online in two minutes. Opt for one time, weekly or monthly donations. Open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR Code, which takes you to the Giving Page on our website.

Covenant Church of Thomaston

Giving Page QR Code

