

## No God Like Ours

In King Solomon's prayer of dedication for the temple, he declared: "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you" (v. 23). Throughout the Old Testament, we see examples from Israel's history that show us this truth. One of the clearest illustrations is found later, in 1 Kings 18, when Elijah is pitted against the prophets of Baal in a contest on Mount Carmel. Both agreed to build an altar to their god, and the god who answered by fire was indeed the only true God.

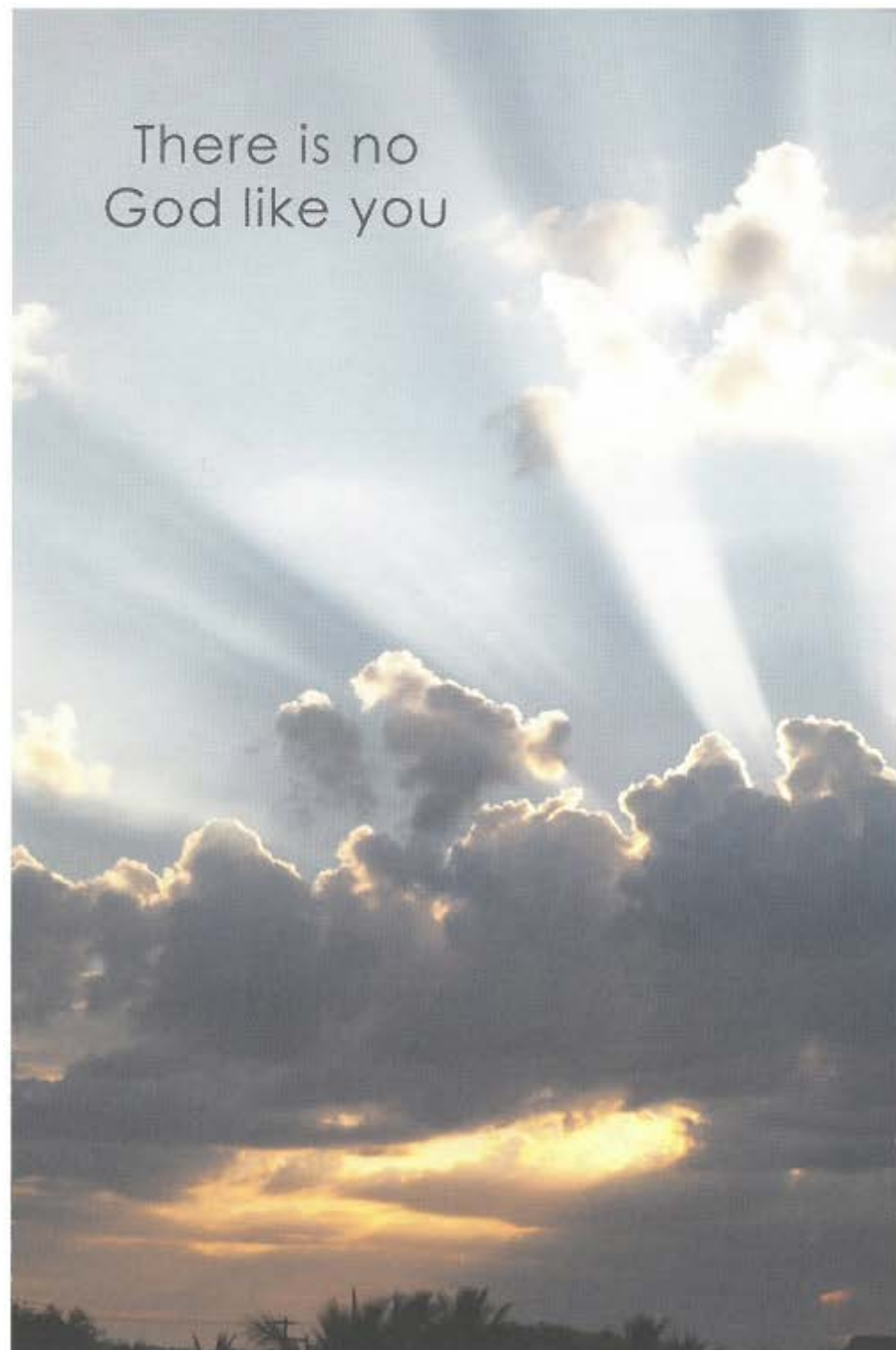
The prophets of Baal built their altar and called out in prayer from morning until noon. Nothing happened. Elijah taunted them, and they prayed harder and more furiously throughout the midday and into the evening. Silence, no response. Then it was Elijah's turn. His altar was entrenched with water. The wood and the offering were waterlogged. Then he prayed for God to answer him, "so that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back" (v. 37). What was the result of this prayer? Fire fell from heaven and consumed everything—the offering, the wood, the stones that made up the altar, and the soil and water that was around it. "The LORD indeed is God" (v. 39).

King Solomon's prayer of dedication also reaches out and implores God to reach out to foreigners. In many ways, we are those foreigners. Maybe I should say we *were* those foreigners. God sent Jesus to die for us, for the sins that separated us from God. Jesus then rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of God making intercession for us. God defeated the stronghold of sin and made a way for us to be forgiven and spend eternity with him. Because of Jesus we are no longer foreigners, but children of God. Truly, there is no God like ours.

—Joel W. Snyder, pastor  
Valley Point Church of the Brethren  
Orbisonia, Pennsylvania

**Text for today:** "Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, 'O LORD, God of Israel, *there is no God like you* in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart . . . Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel . . .'" (1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43 NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** 1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43; Psalm 96:1-9; Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10.

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# BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship May 29, 2016 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

“It (human trafficking) happens when the world closes their eyes and pretends something isn't happening. We want a whole lot of goods and services and we don't really want to pay, but it's got to come from somewhere. When you no longer care about the process of how something gets to you but you just want the end result, then you close your eyes to what's going on....” “...I really believe there is a life beyond everyone's past, and there is a hope and a future. And if you commit to the process of restoration, you can overcome the obstacles and hurdles and the pain and the suffering and be made whole.” ~ Christine Caine, The A21 Campaign

**PRELUDE** (11:00) Adagio *Louis Vierne*  
from Symphony 3

**CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER** Jeff Carr  
Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**  
Great Gettin' Up Mornin' *arr. Donald Moore*

## PROCLAIMING

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (11:00) Tony Stovall  
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.

**\*HYMN # 610** *On Jordan's stormy banks I stand*  
BOUND FOR THE PROMISED LAND

## OFFERING

### Invitation

### Offertory

Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.  
Rhosymedre (“Lovely”) *Ralph Vaughn-Williams*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 7:1-10

**\*HYMN # 89** *For the beauty of the earth* DIX

**SERMON** “*Slavery Today*” Jeff Carr

## RESPONDING

**ANTHEM** (11:00) Great Day *arr. Donald Moore*

## REFLECTIONS & RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS OF LIFE AND FAITH

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ adapted from collected hymn lyrics of Anna Briggs

**Leader:** Lord, one voice alone is ragged, together we are strong; we praise your name, who breathe us, singer and the song.

**All:** **We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet, haunted by hunger, war, and fear, oppressed by power and hate.**

**Leader:** Here human life seems less than profit, might, and pride, though to unite us all in you, you lived and loved and died.

**All:** **We bring our broken towns, our neighbors hurt and bruised; you show us how old pain and wounds for new life can be used.**

**Leader:** We bring our broken loves, friends parted, families torn; then in your life and death we see that love must be reborn.

**All:** **We bring our broken selves, confused and closed and tired; then through your gift of healing grace new purpose is inspired. Come, Spirit, on us breathe, with life and strength anew.**

**Leader:** One voice alone is ragged, together we are strong; we praise your name, who breathe us, singer and the song.

**All:** **Find in us love, hope, trust. And lift us up to you.**

**\*HYMN # 579** *Lift every voice and sing* ANTHEM

### \*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** (11:00) Toccata *Eugene Gigout*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.



## **SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS**

### **HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall**

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.**

*All Are Welcome* brochures, available in the pews and literature rack, list specific Christian Education opportunities and locations.

**PARKING ASSISTANCE:** 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

### **CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!**

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

**Greeters** (8:30) – Chuck Clouse & Nancy O’Baugh

**Fellowship Host** – Don Remnant

**Greeters** (11:00) – Jeff & Nikki Watson; Palmer Lee Berry

**Head Usher** (11:00) – Kevin Keplinger

**Sound/Light** (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff & Skip Eger

**Decorators** – Lisa Houff & Dwyann Stovall

**Deacon Caregiver** – Hope Staton

**Van Drivers** – Melvin Wampler & Palmer Lee Berry

**Organist Today** – Paige Martindale

**Worship Leader** (11:00) – Tony Stovall

### **WORSHIP AT 8:30 TODAY**

We welcome the Youth Choir from the First United Methodist Church of Mufreesboro, TN to our 8:30 worship this morning. Several years ago the choir spent the night in our space and shared a concert. They have returned again this year to share their music gifts with us as they journey on to New York City. We welcome and thank them for sharing with us this morning.

**BWCOB ANNUAL CONFERENCE GATHERING:** June 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Seekers Room. This gathering is for those from BWCOB attending conference, conference delegates, and any other interested persons. It will include time to review the proposed agenda items and connect with one another before the "Annual Meeting" in NC.

### **NEWCOMER GATHERING: June 8**

The event will begin with dinner, provided by the deacons, at 5:30 p.m. There will be time to get acquainted with BWCOB, find out more information about the congregation, and to learn ways to connect as newcomers to this community of faith. Childcare can be available from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Please contact the church office by June 5, 2016 to sign-up. You can also sign-up by visiting the church website and filing out the online form.

### **TODAY'S CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP TEXT:**

Great, great mornin', Lord!

In-a that great getting' up mornin', fare thee well, fare thee well.

O, I've got a place in heaven I know. I've got a robe all ready to go.

In-a that great getting' up mornin', fare thee well, fare thee well.

Train is leavin' better get on board. I've got a ticket, gonna thank the Lord.

In-a that great getting' up mornin', fare thee well, fare thee well.

In-a that great getting' up morning', I'll be lookin' over Jordan.

In-a that great getting' up mornin', fare thee well, fare thee well.

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### **TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT:**

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching. Great day!

God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

Chariot rode on the mountain top, God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

My God spoke and the chariot did stop,

God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching. Great day!

God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

This is the day of Jubilee, God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

Lord has set His people free, God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching. Great day!

God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

I'm gonna take my sword and shield, God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching. Great day!

God's gonna build up Zion's walls.

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