

Lighthouse Worship

Grieving Well (John 11:17-45)

Pastor Jon Donohue

Sunday, October 4, 2020



- **Opening Prayer**

Settle in and quiet your spirit. Invite the Lord into your presence and time together. Trust that He will speak and quicken your spirit to what He has for you today.

- **Scripture Reading**

Psalm 34:1-8 I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. I will boast only in the LORD; let all who are helpless take heart. Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness; let us exalt his name together. I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

Psalm 34:17-18 The LORD hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

- **Worship Through Song**

Shout to the Lord (Darlene Zschech): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y78aKBa917I>

- **Scripture Reading**

John 16:16-33 "In a little while you won't see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again." Some of the disciples asked each other, "What does he mean when he says, 'In a little while you won't see me, but then you will see me,' and 'I am going to the Father'? And what does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand." Jesus realized they wanted to ask him about it, so he said, "Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won't see me, but a little while after that you will see me again. I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy.

It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy. At that time you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

"I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father. Then you will ask in my name. I'm not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God. Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father."

Then his disciples said, "At last you are speaking plainly and not figuratively. Now we understand that you know everything, and there's no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God." Jesus asked, "Do you finally believe? But the time is coming-- indeed it's here now-- when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

- **Responsive Worship**

1. While Jesus told his disciples that their grief would eventually turn to joy, he told them that they would enter into a season of grief. In what ways have you experienced grief recently, even knowing that in the end you will find lasting joy?
2. Trials are common for the Christ-follower. This world is not our home, which is filled with heartache and aggression towards those who don't swim with its currents. Satan targets us as well. Jesus tells us in v. 33 we will have many trials and sorrows. In what do we have to find joy in the midst of it?

- **Worship Through Song**

Be Still My Soul / In You I Rest (Kari Jobe): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq59iE3MhXM>

- **Lighthouse Message – Grieving Well**

YouTube Channel: Alliance Bible Church, Anchorage
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYnhhwO3DYtDWIcIVtelFrg>

- **Discussion**

1. Share about a time God did a work in your life that was not what you had hoped for, and it led to grief. What did you learn about God and/or yourself through that time?
2. In what ways have you been a good, helpful support for those in grief? In what ways have you struggled in this area?
3. In what ways have you seen God bring new life out of seasons of brokenness and grief?
4. What is God calling you to do with grief in light of this message today, and what step(s) will you take this week to advance in this calling?

- **Communion** (Please have communion elements ready)
Read Mark 14:22-25. Take a few moments to prepare your hearts before partaking of communion. After you have done so, have one person read:

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

All partake of the bread together.

Then read:

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people-- an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

All partake of the cup together.

Speak a prayer of thanks for the sacrifice of Jesus' life on the cross for us.

- **Prayer**
Pray for one another and anything else the Lord brings to mind.
- **Worship Through Song**

My Hope (Paul Baloche): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KojhRGDr6rA>

- **Benediction**

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say.

REMINDERS:

- **Giving:** <https://www.abcanchorage.org/giving>
- **ABC Updates:** <https://www.abcanchorage.org/updates>