

**GLIMPSES OF GOD'S WORK**  
**Psalm 122; Hebrews 10:19-25**

**Intro:** This morning and again next Sunday, my talk will be part sermon, part travelogue, and part report. Your ABC Leadership Team and Bishop Lynn conducted an End of Term Review for me in 2020. Two significant things came out of that meeting: 1) the Leadership Team invited me to serve for another five year term. And 2) It was recommended by the Bishop that, sometime in that five years, I would receive a sabbatical. The Board heartily agree with the sabbatical and, as you well know, that came to fruition this past Summer and this is my first Sunday back from that nearly ten week hiatus. It was an eventful time for you and I have been blessed to know how you stepped up as a church to be the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in my absence. It was an eventful time for Kathy and I as we traveled a lot and saw a lot of old friends and family and got to know some new friends. For that reason, I thought you should know what I have been up to as we have been away.

First of all though, I feel I need to report to you concerning these two. These two are Zachary and Brooke Tyson, my grandnephew and grandniece. They were born 15 years ago this past Thursday – at 26 weeks. They are now these two beautiful teens.

Thanks for being a praying congregation.

Now for our text and some comments:

**(Read Hebrews 10:19-25)**

We heard earlier, *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"* Psalm 122:1. This should make us glad too. Gathering together is essential for Christ Followers. As the text I just read points out from the beginning, it's a confidence builder. Verse 19 points out that . . .

**We have confidence to enter into worship no matter where we are**

- Verse 20 tells us we have a common testimony—to quote the words of an old hymn, we've been *saved by the blood of the crucified One*.
- Verse 21 tells us we have a common Lord. We are united by the One we serve
- Verse 22 tells us we have a common faith. No matter where we go – our God is the one God and his Son is our common Savior. I remember being in Quito, Ecuador, probably on this very weekend about 21 years ago, and being in a worship service that was completely in Spanish with no translation. Regardless of the language barrier, it was still a very worshipful experience for me because I knew these dear people whom I could not understand were worshipping a God who did and he was the same God I worship. Sandy Patty's words are so true:

*Love in any language  
 Straight from the heart  
 Pulls us all together  
 Never apart  
 And once we learn to speak it  
 All the world will hear  
 Love in any language  
 Fluently spoken here*

Those words are more than wishful thinking – they are fact. Know that no matter where we are we can worship the living God and we will be welcomed as we do. So, we can see in verse 23 that we must . . .

**Hold fast to our common hope**

- In another place in Hebrews, in a very similar vein, the writer says *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure*. Hebrews 6:19. As we hope in the Lord we will not be dragged away by the wind and turbulence of change and sin. And not only that, we see in verse 24 that . . .

**We must encourage one another**

- Numerous times on our trip we were encouraged by the people we met even as we encouraged them – I'll have some stories in a bit.
- And now this very big one in verse 25, and it was an important rule for our time away from our church family at ABC. . .

**Do not neglect to meet together**

- We need each other. We need to see each other – face to face. It gets more important with each passing day.
- Know what? We need people!

**And that's my transition into some pictures and some comments on each one.**

I want to talk about the people and the churches we enjoyed over the past weeks.

I want you to know that fly-over country is full of beautiful souls and we were enriched by our time with them. There is a reason I called this talk, GLIMPSES OF GOD'S WORK. I'll make comments on most of these pictures as I explain what you are seeing and if you have a question or need clarification, please call our and ask.

Pictures

Amen.