

SECOND'S MATTERS

June 8, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From the Interim Pastor's Desk

"Good Grief!" Really? What's good about it? It doesn't feel good. So why not try to block it out by thinking happy thoughts? Why not distract ourselves with some activity that is absorbing enough to make us forget?

Have you ever noticed how emotional the Psalms are? They express the heights of joy and thankfulness, and all sorts of other "positive" feelings; as well as the depths of grief, anger, fear, and all sorts of other "negative" feelings. That's because the Psalms express the full range of our various, alternating, and conflicting emotions as we live from day to day.

We have good reason for labeling some of these feelings as "positive" and others as "negative," and it is a "no-brainer" to prefer and seek the "positive" feelings over the "negative" ones. But until we get to Heaven, we will have to take all of our emotions as they come, and often we can't get to joy following a major loss without going through the grief that results from that loss.

Read Psalm 137, 40 and 42 again when you have time, and see how they illustrate much of what I've said here about dealing with our emotions. Notice also how the Psalmist, like any emotionally healthy human being, seeks and longs for the "positive" emotions. But notice further that the way to the most life-affirming emotions is often through unfiltered and open expression of many intertwined "negative" emotions.

Psalm 13 portrays the process in a very short and vivid way. Vs. 1-2 are a raw and unfiltered "lament" or "complaint." Blur it out in all its ugly reality! Vs. 3-4 are a desperate cry for help from God, who is there to comfort us in our grief with his presence and promises. Vs. 5-6 are a confident and thankful expression of trust in God.

It doesn't seem to fit together, but it often resides within us together. It's good to express it as it comes.

The Psalms are God's own songbook, written to help us express ourselves to God and others in a way that really is good for us in the long run, even when it doesn't feel good. I find comfort and movement toward emotional health in the Psalms. They model God's way of working through the emotional ups and downs we face in life.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

A few years ago, I heard about Every Moment Holy, a collection of liturgies and prayers for specific but common parts of life – in the last year, I have shared some of these liturgies with you. This book has changed me in profound and subtle ways and has set me on a path toward learning more deeply what Christ has for me. Today, I couldn't pick out the right words or a story to share with you to convey my feelings, so I wrote a Liturgy For Transitioning to Summer. I pray it speaks to you the way it did to me.

In the sounds of gentle breezes, buzzing bees, and children laughing,
We hear your goodness, O God.

In the scents of bonfires, coconut sunscreen, and tractor exhaust,
We smell your goodness, O God.

In the sights of brightly colored flowers, deep blue water, and sparkling fireworks,
We see your goodness, O God.

In the flavors of iced tea, ripe watermelon, and grilled meat,
We taste your goodness, O God.

In the feeling of bare feet on grass, air-conditioning on hot skin, and sore muscles after a long day,
We touch your goodness, O God.

Creator God, as we transition from season to season,
We know and experience new examples of your mercy,
Your grace, and your peace. We thank you for it.
As we enter the long days of summer, may we rely on you
In this season of growth. May your Spirit be at work in us,
As we seek to become more and more like you.

Amen

Our Church Family

Pray for healing and strength for **Josie Visser** as she under goes chemotherapy treatments.

Pray for healing and strength for those recovering from surgeries.

Community Announcements

Townhall Meeting, June 12

Please join us for a town hall meeting follow the worship service on Sunday June 12

Highlights from the 6-1-22 Shepherding Elders Meeting

- we reshuffled the members of our Care Groups to create four groups from five
- we went through the directory and placed inactive members into a lapsed category
- Pastor Dan made us aware of his new hours

Church Office

The church office will not have regular office hours this week. If you have an announcement for the bulletin, please submit it by Thursday at 5 pm. Please call the church (924-0170) to be sure that the church is unlocked.

SAVE THE DATE – June 26

Join us on June 26 for a picnic following the morning worship service; consider this a practice run for your 4th of July celebrations! We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, & brats with all the fix-ins, drinks, and dessert, all you need to bring is a side dish to share – dinner will be served at 11:30p. There will also be lawn and board games for you to play as we socialize together! There is a signup sheet on the literature ledge, don't see this as a hard commitment, but more as a chance for us to get a rough headcount on meat. We hope to see you there!

From the Worship Committee

On Sundays we worship together as the body of Christ. Consequently we would like to involve more members of our body in that worship. If you would consider reading Scripture, giving a children's message, leading a liturgy (or perhaps you have another idea), please contact Pastor Dan or Karen Admiraal (335-2285). All ages are encouraged to participate.

Reeman VBS June 13-17

Journey through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. At TREASURED VBS kids will discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems or gold - it's them! Join us from June 13-17 at Reeman CRC for this excellent week! [Sign up here!](#) For more information contact Lizzie Van Wyk or Carla Proctor.

Summer Get-Away

Ladies...this is for you! The word is out! We are planning a special morning summer get-away at The Shack in White Cloud on August 13 just for ladies! We'll plan to car pool from Fremont. It's open for high school gals and ladies of all ages, so mark your calendar now and plan to come and join us. You won't want to miss out!

More information will be out later. Got questions? Check-in with Gretchen Kronsbein, Michele VanSoelen, Tori Wilkinson, Vicki Gilliland or Bette Wagenmaker. See you at The Shack on August 13!

Offering Information

Our Deacons encourage our support to our congregation's financial obligations through our offerings. Donations can be mailed to the church at 600 Apache Drive or submitted online via bank account or card at this link: [Online Giving](#). If you wish to give to Christian Education or Faith Promise online, then download the "GivePlus" app.

Special envelope offerings are: June 12, 2022 – World Renew
June 19, 2022 – Resonate World Missions
June 26, 2022 – Bible League

Stock the Pantry

For June, the requested food items are soup and crackers. They can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

The Prayer Corner

How often we turn to the Psalms to express the thoughts we feel but haven't the words to express. Some of the emotions expressed in the Psalms are deep sorrow, lament, praise, adoration, gratitude, despair, yearnings for God's intervention, cries for protection, remorse, penitence and much more. We learned the words of favorite psalms as kids and have relied on them all our lives. Some psalms may be a bit unfamiliar to us, but just as rich and meaningful.

In a quiet place meditate on these words, perhaps journaling your thoughts and then thank God for who He is to you, personally.

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor,
no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.
O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.
Psalm 84:10-11

Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
I will listen to what God the Lord will say;
he promises peace to his people, his saints—but let them not return to folly.
Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
Psalm 85:4-9

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
Psalm 89:1-2

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