

Straight from the "Hart"

October 15, 2023

Showers of Blessing -- Beloved



Sharing the journey
to know, love, and serve

Welcome to Hartland UMC's "Straight from the "Hart"". We are really glad you are here and participating in today's time of worship.



Affirmation of God's Love and Call

(P – Pastor, C – Reader with Congregation)

P: I believe in an innovative, loving God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves

C: but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

P: I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, and that when he calls us to follow,

C: Christ also gives us the power to become the children of the living God.

P: I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty

C: and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

P: I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people,

C: called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.

P: Because God has sought us, and Christ has called us, and the Spirit comes to us,

C: We truly believe. Amen.

ad. from "This We Believe" (inspired by Mark 1:14-20, Matthew 4:18-22) — written by Bruce Prewer, bruceprewer.com

Opening Prayer

Lord, we give with thanksgiving in the hopes that our faith will grow more and more and that our love for each other will continue to increase. We offer ourselves to you in worship so that you can sustain our perseverance in faith and be among those counted worthy of the kingdom of God. We pray this according to the grace of our God and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Inspired by 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5,12b

Call to Worship

We come to consider the extravagant love the Father has lavished on us – adopting us into his family and calling us his *beloved* children. We come because the full picture of our destiny is not yet clear and we want to become more and more like him until that day we will see him and become like him. We come to focus our hope on him and his coming -- seeking to purify ourselves as he is pure.

inspired by 1 John 3:1-3

Our first song is meant for a different context, but the words of the first couple verses do well to introduce today's worship topic. Let's sing together...

Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here

Words: Russell Schultz-Widmar, 1982 © 1982 Russell Schultz-Widmar

Music: M. Lee Suitor, 1984 © 1984 M Lee Suitor

Your love, O God, has called us here, for all love finds its source in you,
the perfect love that casts out fear, the love that Christ makes ever new.

O gracious God, you consecrate all that is lovely, good, and true.

Bless those who in your presence wait and every day their love renew.

Theme

In the middle of a weed field grew a single white rose. Its velvet petals, white as snow, were laden with drops of morning dew that shined like crystals. (Can you picture it?) The flower, let's call her Rose, couldn't see herself. She didn't know how special she was. She did not realize that the weeds all around her were amazed by her beautiful perfection, lovely fragrance, and wonderful elegance.

It hadn't rained for a while and Rose was beginning to wilt in the heat of yet another hot, sunny day. A girl strolled through the field on that day and discovered Rose. Rose could hear her as the girl thought out loud, *"What a beautiful flower. But if the weather stays like this, this rose will not last another day. I'll take it home and put it in a lovely vase. So with all her appreciative love, she carefully took it home and put it in water and set it on the window sill so it could get some sun.*

In the reflection of the window, Rose saw herself for the first time. She now realized how different and special she was, all because she heard someone speak about her, and then treat her with love. Her drooping leaves began to rise and her petals stretched towards the sun and she became as beautiful as she could.

Sometimes it may seem like we are all alone and don't realize how special each of us are. But God picks us, and cares for us, and thinks we are special and beautiful. And when we realize that, it makes us want to blossom into the best bloomin' flowers that we can be, the best people that we can be...

Of course, the Bible says we failed that, but God already had a plan in place to keep us from withering in the ground or in the vase, and he, and tradition have given us vivid ways of seeing this truth as well.

For example, this year it was Sep 15 that the Jews began a 10-day festival which begins with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year in which they renew their covenant relationship with God as the sovereign King of time and space. The Ten Days are called the Days of Awe or Days of Repentance, and is a time of serious introspection, and to seek reconciliation with people you may have wronged during the year (kind of what our Lent was like when we took it seriously back in the day). All this is in preparation for Yom Kippur (**yawm kee-poor**) – the Day of Atonement, in which forgiveness from God is sought for the mistakes of the past year against God and a resolve to do better in the coming year. On the eve of Yom Kippur is a custom called Kapparot (**kah-paw-Rawt**) which is rarely practiced today and only in its true form by certain branches of Judaism, and other branches haven't even heard of it. The practice is to purchase a live fowl (usually a chicken), (or today sometimes a money bag is used instead), and it is swung around over your head while placing your right hand on its head while reciting a prayer 3 times that "This be considered my substitute, my vicarious offering, my atonement [for sins...] This will die, but I will find a long and pleasant life of peace." Symbolically, the sin is transferred to the bird. It is then slaughtered and given to the poor or what is deemed better (in tradition), it is eaten by the owners and its value is given to the poor.

Judaism 101 (jewfaq.org) with JewishEncyclopedia.com

It is a rather graphic but also vivid illustration of the seriousness of sin's penalty and the need to keep in good repair our relationship – first with others -- and then with God. I bring this up because central to the passage we are about to hear is the Jewish word Kapparot (**kah-paw-Rah**), or what we translate as atonement, except that this time it goes beyond something that we do on our own, and at best,

can only do symbolically. But the Bible tells us something better...

Intro to and Bible Reading 1

God didn't leave us to do it on our own. In his love, he sent his Son to not just symbolically remove the penalty of sin, but to begin a true transformation from the inside out... It is the lengths to which God went that demonstrate who he is and what that transformation might look like in our lives and relationships with others. At the heart of all of this is what today's version translates as: atoning sacrifice. Listen for what this all means for the author John, and for us ...



Beloved friends, let us devote ourselves to the practice of unselfishly loving each other and seeking the best for each other, for love is from God. Because God is love, those who are loving and kind show that God is their Father and truly know God through personal experience. God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into this wicked world so that through him we might find true life. In this act we see the embodiment of true love: not that we loved God first; but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins (thus fulfilling God's requirement for justice).

Beloved friends, if this is how God so loved us in this incredible way, surely we should love each other too. For though no one has seen God with human eyes, if we love one another with unselfish concern, then God's love (which is his essence, abides in us) and has accomplished its mission is us and his love within us grows ever stronger. This is how we can be sure that we remain united with him and he with us: The proof is that he has given to our hearts his Holy Spirit. More than that, we who were with him in person have watched with our own eyes what God has done, and now testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

From 1 John 4:7-13 (TLB, CJB, VOICE, AMP)

Music The center of that reading, like the first hymn, tells us that God is the source of love. We love each other and we love Jesus because of what Jesus first did – and does – for us.

O How I Love Jesus

Words: Frederick Whitfield, 1855, Music: 19th cent. USA melody

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

2. It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.

Refrain

3. It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below.

Refrain

God Moments (Congregation testimonies were not transcribed.)

Music It is out of God's sacrificial, redeeming love that you've experienced what you just talked about, and as some of you mentioned by what you said -- being a blessing to others a really good theme for today. Also, it is out of his love that and for that love that the Father/Son/Spirit calls us to himself. Let's prepare our hearts for prayer by singing

You Are Mine

Words & Music: David Haas © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc

1. I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.

2. I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me.

Refrain

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

4. I am the word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain, stand up, now walk, and live!

Refrain

Prayers

God of power and might, we come to this place, this sanctuary, to give thanks for how you are working in the lives of your church family and in the world. We come to receive understanding and peace when our world is confusing and conflicted. Grace us to be a people who make a difference through our prayers and actions, bringing hope by treating others as we would want to be treated. In our

zealousness for the task at hand, always keep before us that people you created and love **Praises and Petitions** Specifically, we pray for Joyce Vahala, the burns and the healing process that she must go through, a sense of your presence and power. Also, Jan has an update with Calvin and Reese – they took Calvin out of school and to a home and Reese can't see him for a month. So that is a traumatic situation for both of them and for all involved. We pray for them as well. We also pray for Peace in the Mideast, and for other areas of the world who are suffering from natural or manmade disasters and conflict. We continue to pray for * Laura Walker * for Becky Wren; * for those looking for better work, * for those that are on our hearts and minds but we haven't named out loud this week. We simply ask that you continue to be with the needs of the people of this church and their loved ones and even beyond.

QUILTS And today we bless two quilts for Al Davis, a friend of the Gordoniers who has been struggling to regain his health after a car accident – it has been quite a while now/ And for Joyce Vahala who we already mentioned, who comes with Cheri and has been badly burned.

Now dear Lord, today we ask for a special blessing on these two quilts and on the two people to which they are given. We pray that they will feel the warmth and strength of your loving arms as they wrap these around themselves. We pray it will encourage their faith and grace them with the needed perseverance on their journey back to full health and remind them that they are loved by you and by this church family.

May the use of these quilts be instrumental in creating assurance and peace, not only in Al and Joyce, but all those who are going through this journey with them, bringing comfort to their hearts, and rest to their bodies and spirits. Even in the darkest of times, may they remind them that you are there with them, always awake, keeping watch, holding them close, knowing that you have reserved a special place in your heart for them and for each one of us, that we may recognize that we are never, ever alone. We pray this blessing on these quilts for Al and Joyce, we pray for wisdom and skill for the medical people who are guiding their treatments, and we pray this in the name of our ultimate healer, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Pause)

Now Lord, grant us the power and the wisdom to make a difference in the lives of others just as you have made a difference in us each day as we strive to live the



values expressed in the prayer you taught us to pray **LORD's PRAYER**

Intro to and Bible Reading 2

Intro: We heard earlier in the story of Rose, the chosen flower -- how much God sees in us and wants to make us his gift to the world he loves. Paul elaborates on this theme in what was originally one sentence...

Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in the Messiah has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heaven. He has done this not because of anything we have done, but because of what he has done for us. In his love, God chose us to be in a relationship with him before the creation of the universe, that we may live holy lives characterized by love, free from sin, and without defect in his presence. He destined us to be adopted as his children through the covenant Jesus the Messiah inaugurated in his sacrificial life. This was in keeping with his pleasure and purpose for us. Ultimately, God is the one worthy of praise for his glorious, merciful, and marvelous grace -- which he freely bestowed on us through the Beloved One, Jesus. In union with him, through the shedding of his blood, we are set free -- our sins are forgiven. This accords with the richness of his grace that he has lavished on us.

In all his wisdom and insight, the Father was pleased to make known to us the mystery of his will which he designed beforehand in connection with the Messiah. A plan he will put into effect when the time is ripe -- a plan to place everything in heaven and on earth together under the Messiah's royal rule.

In union with Christ, we also received an inheritance (a destiny -- we were claimed by God as his own). We were chosen in advance according to the purpose of the One who accomplishes everything in keeping with the counsel and design of his will -- so that we who were the first to put our hope in Christ would live in a way that will bring him praise [worthy] of his glory.

Furthermore, you who heard the message of truth -- the good news of your salvation -- and put your trust in Christ, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. The Spirit guarantees our inheritance until all who belong to him receive it and bring him praise [that appropriately reflects] his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14 (CJB, TLV, VOICE, AMP
(slightly ad. for an oral presentation))

Music Paul reminds us that how we live is to elicit praise to God, not just from ourselves, but from those who observe our lives. But he also reassures us that the work of Jesus and the richness of his wonderful grace and the presence of the Holy Spirit assures us that we are his beloved children. If comfortable, let's stand before the sermon and sing



Blessed Assurance

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873, Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

Sermon Beloved

Last week acknowledged that we are a truly blessed people -- even if current circumstances make it difficult to see that. The prophet Ezekiel reminded us that God's judgment (that is, the peoples' consequences for their own bad behavior) that God would use those consequences to turn it into something good. It would draw them back to God for purification and for unification. He assures them that a day of peace would come through a new covenant. Desert dryness would experience life giving rain in its season, provision would be in abundance, threats would be banished from the land so that the people could live securely, and they would be so blessed that everyone would crave to be called by God's name; and we ourselves are eager to be a blessing for all those who cross our path.

You may have picked up from today's readings that the Bible authors considered a pretty important part of God's desired purpose to bless us and *make us a blessing for others*. It was, in fact, a part of the initial calling to Abraham (I'll make you a great nation so that through you all the nations would be blessed, and that

primary mission has never changed). Why is it so important? it has to do with how God feels about his creation, about everyone, even before they come into relationship with him. Henri Nouwen says, The Divine voice speaks from above and from within and whispers softly or declares loudly: "You are my child, my beloved, on you my favor rests."

It is not easy to hear that Voice in a world filled with voices that tell us we're no good, that we're despicable, that we're nobodies". If I scroll down through social media, people are often making comparisons, I see it in sports a lot, comparing this player to that player, this generation to that generation, but not only in sports, it is in all aspects of life. Lifting up their hero or their favored topic, which is fine, but then there always seems to be a sentence or a paragraph that tears down something they are comparing it to -- another athlete, another generation, another era, or whatever the topic is -- people or topics who are of similar caliber but who lived in a different era or in different circumstances, and concluding because they aren't the same as the thing being lifted up, they imply that they are bad and you go away thinking "hmmm" -- and it almost ways based on flimsy false comparisons.

And in the context of faith, it is challenging to live in a world that accuses, criticizes, blames, and/or tries to manipulate God and people of faith; and would often prefer we and our values were left out in the cold with no influence at all. And sometimes people of faith bring it on themselves by the way they treat God, others and God's creation.

People are rarely brought to life through the sounds of curses, and gossip, and accusations, and blaming, and judging. This calls forth only darkness, and resistance, and destruction, and death. Yet these dark voices seem to be the voices most in favor today, because it is easier to get more attention by creating content that is negative, and panicky, and the sky is falling imagery, rather than by positive, peaceful, assurance in the power of love and the power of God -- that motivates us to doing good.

Dark voices without, and if we are honest, for some of us, at least, there are dark voice within, within our own psyche that is sometimes our own worst enemy -- trying to convince us that we deserve to be pushed aside, and forgotten, and rejected, and abandoned, not just for what we did; but for who we are. And sometimes these voices are so persistent that it is too easy to believe them.

And when we believe the voices that call us worthless and unlovable, when we believe the voices that constantly challenge us to *prove* ourselves, to prove that

we have worth, to prove that we have relevance, to prove that we have strength, to prove we have the ability to earn love (usually by being better than everyone else in the whole world), then we fall into an inescapable trap.

Silly example – when the Buffalo Bills lost 4 Super Bowls in a row, by some, they weren't just considered a very good team that lost the Super Bowl 4 times. They were considered -- losers – and they probably would have been better off being a good team that never made it to the Super Bowl than by losing the Super Bowl four times in a row. It is amazing how close you can get, and how bad that makes you when you don't quite get it all the way.

Success, beauty, popularity, power and wealth are strong temptations to idolize and chase after. Because they promise (falsely) that if we achieve them, we will prove to ourselves and maybe even others that we are loved, accepted, and important. But there is almost always someone who could do better – and even the winners of those four super bowls only got to glory in their success for about 6 months, and then they had to go back to the pack and had to prove themselves all over again. I'm not talking just about sports. That's how life works too. We're always having to start over in proving ourselves again.

In the midst of our pursuit of proving ourselves – of earning loving acceptance through our accomplishments, the Sacred Voice continues to call to us in the very depth of our being, and aside from any works, says, "You are [already] my beloved, my favor [already] rests on you."

His voice can come to us in countless ways. Parents, friends, teachers, students, and many strangers who cross our path may have all become that voice in different moments in different ways. Most of us have been cared for by many people with much tenderness and gentleness. We have been encouraged. Sometimes, it is God himself who assures us -- as Paul puts it, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (Romans 8:16)

In the midst of where the rubber meets the road, we don't always hear the inner voice that calls us loved. Love is sometimes more silent than we want or need it to be. We need to confess our brokenness that prevents us from hearing God; and allow our hearts to be cleansed, so we can know and claim with our whole being that we are indeed his chosen people... Someone has expressed a desire to know us, to come closer to us, to love us. When we know we are chosen, we know that we're valuable. As God's chosen ones, we have been seen by God from all eternity and seen as unique, and special, and precious beings.

As we continue hearing the deep gentle voice that blesses us, we walk through life with a stable sense of well-being and true belonging, even when we face a manipulative, blaming, complaining, dismissive world. We must remember, especially in those kinds of times; that we are indeed blessed and beloved.

When we realize we are beloved, we begin a journey. We are called to become what we are. For as long as "being beloved" is only an abstract idea in the clouds of mental optimism, nothing really changes. We must live out being beloved in the commonplaces of our daily life and experience. Our beloved-ness should be revealed in how we think, talk, and do -- day in and day out. Right?

The more we realize we are chosen, the more we realize how blessed we are. A father said at his son's bar mitzvah: "Son, whatever will happen to you in your life, whether you will have success or not, become important or not, will be healthy or not, always remember how much your mother and I love you." That is a blessing of grace."

In our constantly competitive world where there can only be one "best", it seems easy for some to forget that to be chosen does not mean that others are rejected. Others are chosen too. Think of choosing up teams on the playground. Competition and comparison are always there. To be chosen leaves another one standing on the sidelines. But in the kingdom of God; it is not a competitive choice, it is a compassionate choice. Being chosen does not mean we alone are better than others. Being chosen does not exclude others, but it seeks to include others who are also chosen; and just as we were accepted, they are also accepted for their own unique qualities.

We must celebrate our chosen-ness constantly. Be thankful to God for having loved and chosen us, and to those who remind us that we are chosen. To be grateful when events turn out well, when problems are solved, when relationships are restored, when wounds healed, and sins are forgiven... to be thankful to God who has done and is doing these things for us, often through others, and also offers it to others, often through us. For God calls us to be his instruments that bring his healing light to them, and them to us. (Pause)

More and more, people are fearful, anxious, insecure human beings desperately needing to be blessed. The word "blessed: literally means speaking well or saying good things of someone. Affirmation / encouragement, it is hard to live well without it. We all need to hear good things said of us. But to give a goes beyond words of appreciation, it is an affirmation of their beloved-ness. We see and treat them as

God's beloved child, precious in his eyes. Remembering ourselves and reminding others that we are all very special people, deeply loved by God, who never leaves us alone, but lovingly guides us every step of our lives.

Claiming and believing in our own blessedness, if it is genuine, will lead to a deep desire to bless others. The characteristic the blessed one is that wherever they go, they live actions and speak words that are a blessing to others. The blessed one always blesses, and if we follow the Bible -- even in response to being cursed. (See Luke 6:27-28 and Romans 12:14) And we do it because people living in a dark world want and need to find God's blessing whether they realize it or not.

The more we hear the voice calling us by name and blessing us, the less the darkness distracts us. The voice that calls us beloved will give us words to bless others and reveal to others that they are no less blessed than we, if they'll only open themselves to it. Our world has lost touch with the joy of giving. We often live as if our happiness depended on getting and having, from what I've been reading. But is anyone truly happy *just* because of what they have? True joy, happiness, and inner peace come not from the getting of things, a little from the giving of things, but primarily from the giving of ourselves. Have you ever noticed the joy of a mother (grandmother, great grandmother) when she sees that baby smile? The baby's smile is a gift to the mother (grandmother, great grandmother) who is grateful to see her baby happy! And vice versa!

When we ask, "Who is able to help me most?" The answer is: "The one who is willing to share their life with me." So the real question is not so much what *thing* we can offer each other, but rather, what we can *be* for each other? It is good when we offer those tangible things, it is good if we can repair something for a neighbor, give helpful advice, bring healing, give financial assistance, announce good news, or give sincere compliments. These can be tangible expressions of the greatest gift that we have to offer -- as we do them, we are offering our presence, our life, ourselves to the recipient of those words and actions. This is the great call as God's beloved children: to bring the light of God's blessing to the brokenness of our dark sin-cursed and cursing world.

When we keep listening to the voice that calls us beloved, it becomes possible to live in the harsh brokenness around us -- and face any brokenness within us; and not see it as a confirmation of our fear that we are worthless, but as an opportunity to purify and deepen our blessedness.

To go back to our introduction with Ezekiel -- what we talked about last week:

What seemed a reason for depression becomes a source of purification. What looked to be punishment becomes a gentle pruning. What felt like rejection becomes a way to turn back and to even deeper communion. The challenge is to allow the blessing to touch our brokenness. That is not easy for it makes us vulnerable as we open ourselves up to God. But in doing so, it *opens the way to new life*.

In Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* (a musical): Toward the end, the priest, richly dressed in splendid liturgical vestments, is lifted up by his people. He towers high above the adoring crowd, carrying in his hands a glass chalice. Suddenly the human pyramid collapses, and the priest comes tumbling down. His vestments are ripped off, and his glass chalice falls to the ground and is shattered. As he walks slowly through the debris of his former glory – now barefoot, wearing only blue jeans and a T-shirt -- children's voices are heard singing *Laude, laude, laude* (praise, praise, praise). The priest suddenly notices the broken chalice. He looks at it for a long time and then, haltingly, he says, "I never realized -- that broken glass -- could shine so brightly."

And Jesus, the Light of the World, offers his broken body, touching our broken lives with his, inviting us to recognize that we are beloved, and desire to respond in love not only for him but for our broken world, and offer that beautiful love and blessing to others in Christ's name. Shine brightly.

Prayer

Lord, because of the competitive world in which we live, we admit that too often the circle of love is broken. We tend to create closed circles that separate in from out, power from despair, privilege from deprivation, popular from unpopular, winners from losers, us from them. We parse out people like we parse out grammar, analyzing and separating and critically dividing until there is nothing left. We succeed in alienating others because we fail to listen, to understand, to be sensitive. We fail to see others as part of your chosen creation. We have closed our hearts, thinking (wrongly) that by knocking them down and excluding them we are somehow *more* included and lifted higher. Forgive us for these and all our sins and failures, just as we strive to forgive those who sin against us.

If we walk in the light of the One who was broken for us, we will have fellowship with one another. As we continue *humbly* claiming the light of our blessedness, we will find ourselves becoming more and more radiant from the heavenly Light who blesses us and calls us beloved.

Now like a propane oil lamp, take our lives -- trim the wick, prune away what does not belong, cleanse the chimney, the dark stains on our hearts and minds -- turn the screw so that the flame increases, the passion of our souls will display the light of your love – and will steadily increase and burn all the more brightly -- that others – who are feeling their way through the darkness of life -- may find the light your blessing. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Music Stand if you are comfortable and let's sing about the blessed work Jesus does in our hearts.

Jesus, Thine All Victorious Love

Words: Charles Wesley, 1740

Music: Carl G. Glasser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

1. Jesus, thine all victorious love shed in my heart abroad;
then shall my feet no longer rove, rooted and fixed in God.
2. O that in me the sacred fire might now begin to glow;
burn up the dross of base desire and make the mountains flow!
3. O that it now from heaven might fall and all my sins consume!
Come, Holy Ghost, for thee I call, Spirit of burning, come!
4. Refining fire, go through my heart, illuminate my soul;
scatter thy life through every part and sanctify the whole.

Series Blessing Now having been blessed by grace, move into your world with confidence in God, for you are beloved by God – formed, chosen, blessed, and given life to live as his holy children.. Amen.