

## **Siloah Friendship Sunday 2017**

**3721 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street**

**Milwaukee, WI 53206**

**(414) 873-5770**

**INTRODUCTION & GREETING:** Pastor Brady E. Coleman

**OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE:** “My Help”

(Director, Nikki Wilson-O’Neal)

(Soloist, Fatiaah Humes)

### **INVOCATION**

**Pastor Coleman:** In the name of The Father, who loves all people, and of The Son, who died and rose for all people, and of The Holy Spirit who wants all people to be saved. Amen.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO CONFESS OUR SINS**

**Pastor Coleman:** God created us to have a good relationship with Him. Sin separates us from God, and keeps us from having the relationship God desires. It pains God to see so much violence, theft, and murder in society. Many people have not only lost their relationship with God, but they have lost any sense of self-worth, and are running head first toward the fires of hell. God does not want this to happen to us. He would have all people turn to Him in repentance. He invites us into His presence, and invites us to confess our guilt.

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

**Congregation:** Almighty God, be merciful to me. Forgive my sins and wrongs. I admit my guilt of not making You a priority. I confess that I have often stayed home instead of worshiping in Your house. I'm sorry that I've allowed myself to be influenced by society. I have listened to music that is not pleasing to You, and have spent more time focused on the things of this world than the things of Heaven. Forgive me for Jesus' sake. Amen.

### **FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

**Pastor Coleman:** God does not make us jump through hoops. When we sincerely repent, He sincerely forgives. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit. Re-dedicate yourself to The Lord, today. Put away those things that are contrary to God's Will, and embrace those things that bring glory to His name. Amen.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**PRAISE DANCE ENSEMBLE:** “Fill Me Up / Overflow” by Tasha Cobbs  
(Choreographer, Jamila Carney)  
(Director, Maureen Gunn)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor Coleman:** We stand and pray! Heavenly Father, help us to leave behind the sinful things of this world that tempt us to break Your commandments. Keep us focused on You and the cross of Jesus. He lived for us! He died for us! He rose for us! Move us, by Your Holy Spirit, to share our faith in Jesus with our neighbors, friends, and family. Hear our prayer, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Congregation:** Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE #411**      “What A Friend We Have In Jesus!”  
(Christian Worship Hymnal)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. What a Friend we have in Je--sus!<br/>All our sins and griefs to bear.<br/>What a pri-vi-lege to car-ry,<br/>Ev-'ry thing to God in prayer.<br/>Oh, what peace we often for-feit.<br/>Oh, what needless pain we bear.<br/>All be-cause we do not car-ry,<br/>Ev'ry thing to God in prayer.</p>                             | <p>2. Have we tri-als and temp-ta-tions?<br/>Is there trou-ble any- where?<br/>We should nev-er be dis-cour-aged.<br/>Take it to The Lord in prayer.<br/>Can we find a Friend so faith-ful,<br/>Who will all our sorrows share?<br/>Je-sus knows our ev'ry weak-ness.<br/>Take it to The Lord in prayer.</p> |
| <p>3. Are we weak and hea-vy la--den,<br/>Cum-bered with a load of care?<br/>Pre-cious Sav-ior still our Ref-uge.<br/>Take it to The Lord in prayer.<br/>Do your friends de-spise, for-sake You?<br/>Take it to The Lord in prayer.<br/>In His arms He'll take and shield you.<br/>You will find a sol-ace there.<br/>A- men</p> |  |

## **THE SCRIPTURES**

### **Isaiah 55:1-7**

The Lord says, “All you who are thirsty, come and drink. Those of you who do not have money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend your money on something that is not real food? Why work for something that doesn't really satisfy you?

Listen closely to Me, and you will eat what is good; your soul will enjoy the rich food that satisfies. Come to Me and listen; listen to Me so you may live. I will make an agreement with you that will last forever. I will give you the blessings I promised to David. I made David a witness of My power for all nations, a ruler and commander of many nations. You will call for nations that you don't yet know. And these nations that do not know you will run to you because of The Lord your God, because of The Holy One of Israel who honors you." So you should look for The Lord before it is too late; you should call to Him while He is near. The wicked should stop doing wrong, and they should stop their evil thoughts. They should return to The Lord so He may have mercy on them. They should come to our God, because He will freely forgive them.

**SENIOR CHOIR:**  
(Director, Beth Leyrer)

"Amazing Grace"

## THE SCRIPTURES

### Revelation 10:9-11

Then I saw another powerful angel coming down from Heaven dressed in a cloud with a rainbow over his head. His face was like the sun, and his legs were like pillars of fire. The angel was holding a small scroll open in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. Then he shouted loudly like the roaring of a lion. And when he shouted, the voices of seven thunders spoke. When the seven thunders spoke, I started to write. But I heard a voice from Heaven say, "Keep hidden what the seven thunders said, and do not write them down." Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to Heaven, and he made a promise by the power of the One who lives forever and ever. He is the One who made the skies and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it. The angel promised, "There will be no more waiting! In the days when the seventh angel is ready to blow his trumpet, God's secret will be finished. This secret is the Good News God told to his servants, the prophets." Then I heard the same voice from heaven again, saying to me: "Go and take the open scroll that is in the hand of the angel that is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and told him to give me the small scroll. And he said to me, "Take the scroll and eat it. It will be sour in your stomach, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." So I took the small scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. In my mouth it tasted sweet as honey, but after I ate it, it was sour in my stomach. Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

### VERSE OF THE DAY

Mark 16:15

**Pastor Coleman:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation." Alleluia!

### Senior Choir sings the General Verse

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is The Christ, The Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

### THE SCRIPTURES

#### Mark 5:1-15

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" Then He asked him, "What *is* your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many." Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. So those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

## **GOSPEL CHOIR**

(Director, Adrienne Hicks)  
(Soloist, Nikki Wilson-O'Neal)

“Yes! I’m A Believer”

## **HYMN OF PRAISE #353**

(Christian Worship Hymnal)

“Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness”

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1. Praise the one who breaks the dark-ness,<br/>With a lib-er-a-ting light.<br/>Praise the one who frees the pris'ners.<br/>Turn-ing blind-ness in-to sight.<br/>Praise the one who preached the Gospel,<br/>Heal-ing ev'ry dread dis-ease,<br/>Calming storms and feed-ing thousands,<br/>With The Father's Word of Peace!</b></p> | <p><b>2. Praise the one who blessed the child-ren<br/>With a strong, yet, gen-tle Word.<br/>Praise the one who drove out de-mons,<br/>With the pierc-ing two-edged sword.<br/>Praise the one who brings cool wa-ter,<br/>To the des-er's burn-ing sand.<br/>From this well comes liv-ing wa-ter,<br/>Quench-ing thirst in ev'ry land!</b></p> |
|---|---|

*(please stand for the final hymn verse)*

- 3. Let us praise The Word In-car-nate,  
Christ, who suf-fered in our place.  
Je-sus died, and rose vic-tor-ious,  
That we may know God, by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness,  
See-ing what our God has done.  
Let us praise the true Re-deem-er.  
Praise the one who makes us one!  
A- men.**

## **MESSAGE FOR THE SOUL:**

“GO TELL OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE!”

1. He drove out a legion of demons.
2. He had mercy on your soul.

## **GATHERING OF LOVE OFFERINGS**

(As Love Offerings are gathered, Adrian & Arianna Gunn will sing “No Weapon”)

## **SOLO SELECTION**

(Soloists Adrian and Arianna Gunn)

“No Weapon,” by Fred Hammond

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor Coleman:** Almighty God, Heavenly Father, You rule over all things and guide the nations of the Earth. You take no pleasure in anyone's eternal death, but desire that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. You sent Jesus to bring light into the world. We pray that Jesus' light shines brighter and brighter, so that those still walking in darkness might have the light of life.

**Congregation: Hear our prayer, O Lord!**

**Pastor Coleman:** Lord Jesus Christ, You gave Your life a ransom for many. You shed Your blood to pay for our sins. You died on the cross, but rose from the dead and blazed the trail to eternal life. You send The Holy Spirit into our hearts that we might never be alone. Help us to share our faith in You with others, that they too might know You are always with them, even when they may feel alone. **Congregation: Hear our prayer, O Lord!**

**Pastor Coleman:** O Holy Spirit, Light Divine, You have created faith in our hearts to believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. You have fed our souls with your inspired Word. You delight in bringing the dead to life and in feeding starving souls with the Bread of Heaven. Help us to recognize that many people are starving spiritually. Move us to share the Bread of Heaven with all who will receive Him.

**Congregation: Hear our prayer, O Lord!**

**Pastor Coleman:** Almighty God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit., we give You thanks for all that You've done and continue to do for us. Be merciful to us and gracious, and cause Your face to shine upon us. And now we pray as Jesus taught us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come.  
Thy Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE #562 vs 1,2**  
(Christian Worship Hymnal)

“I Love To Tell The Story”

1. I love to tell the sto-ry of un-seen things above,  
Of Je-sus and His glo-ry, of Je-sus and His love.  
I love to tell the sto-ry, be-cause I know it's true.  
It satisfies my long-ings like noth-ing else can do.  
I love to tell the sto-ry, 'twill be my theme in glo-ry,  
To tell the old, old sto-ry of Je-sus and His love!

2. I love to tell the sto-ry, for those who know it best,  
Seem hun-ger-ing and thirst-ing, to hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glo-ry, I sing the new, new, song,  
'Twill be the old, old, sto-ry that I have loved so long.  
I love to tell the sto-ry, 'twill be my theme in glo-ry,  
To tell the old, old, sto-ry of Je-sus and His love!  
A-men.

## CLOSING WORD OF PRAYER

**Pastor Coleman:** Lord of the Church, look on Your people with favor. As we leave Your House, may we keep the message You have given us today. Help us to share our faith with others, and remember always the great things You've done for us, through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and The Holy Spirit: One God, forever and forevermore. Amen.

**Congregation:** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**Pastor Coleman:** Brothers and sisters, go tell others what Jesus has done! The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor, and give you peace. Amen.

**Congregation:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN #559:

(Christian Worship Hymnal)

“Lord of the Living Harvest”

1. Lord of the liv-ing har-vest  
That rip-ens o'er the plain,  
Where an-gels soon will gath-er  
Their sheaves of gold-en grain.  
Acc-ept our hands to lab-or,  
Our hearts to trust and love,  
And be with us to ha-sten,  
Thy king-dom from a-bove!

2. As lab'ers in Thy vineyard,  
Lord give us work to do.  
Con-tent to bear the bur-den  
Of wea-ry days for You,  
To ask no other wa-ges  
When You will call us Home,  
Than to have shared the la-bor  
That makes Thy kingdom come!

3. Be with us God The Fa-ther  
Be with us God The Son,  
And God The Holy Spi-rit,  
Most Bless-ed Three in One.  
Make us Thy faith-ful ser-vants,  
Thee right-ly to a-dore,  
And fill us with Thy bless-ings,  
Both now and ev-er-more.  
A-men.

## Announcements

**Sick and Shut-In:** Dwayne Ross (son of William Ross), Dorothy Odems, Carrie Buckner (sister of Margie Hampton), Dorothy Swanigan (niece of Ann Mannery), Marcia Gray, Willie Mae Collier (cousin of Carol Davis), Bill Bagemihl, Shaunte Wigley, Lartha Moore, Margie Jackson, David Bennett, Phillip Cole, Paxton McClendon, Sr. (father of Paxton Carter), Annie Lee Higenbotan (friend of Josephine Adams), Michael Walters (brother of Denise Baker), Barbara Wigley, and Hubert Guyton (father of Roddy Guyton).

**Happy Birthday!** To Simon Robinson, Daeton McGhee— **10/22**; Fatiaah Humes— **10/23**; Dorothy Thorn, Ernice Robinson— **10/24**; Margret Butler, Cindy Vaughner, Shantosha Harris, Qamarri Lay— **10/26**; Gina Knox, Lazerrick Knox, Peyton Johnson— **10/27**; Alysia Brown— **10/28**.

## Calendar for the week

<b>TODAY</b>	Coffee Fellowship/ Fellowship Hall.....8:30AM-9:00AM Bible Class/Fellowship Hall.....9:00AM <b>No</b> Sunday School (resumes next week).....9:00AM <b>Friendship Sunday/Refreshments</b> .....10:00AM Choirs sing, Praise Dancers Gospel Choir practice.....TBA
<b>TUES.</b>	Senior Choir Practice.....6:30PM
<b>WED.</b>	<b>No School</b> (Teacher In-Service) Food Pantry.....1-2:00PM
<b>THUR.</b>	<b>No School</b> (Conferences)
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>No School</b> (Conferences) Food Pantry.....1-2:00PM
<b>SUN.</b>	Coffee Fellowship/ Fellowship Hall.....8:30AM-9:00AM Bible Class/Fellowship Hall.....9:00AM Sunday School (grades K4-8th).....9:00AM Worship Service w/Communion.....10:00AM Gospel Choir practice.....11:30AM

**Calling All Voices!** We have excellent choirs and directors. Why not come and sing to the glory of your Savior? We know your lives are busy with many activities, but it would be wonderful to have your voice praise God in one of our choirs. Please see or contact **Beth Leyrer** to join our Senior Choir at: [pmleyrer@gmail.com](mailto:pmleyrer@gmail.com). Any communicant member or students in grades 4th-8th are invited to join our Gospel Choir. Parents must contact director, **Adrienne Hicks** at [414-412-4840](tel:414-412-4840).

**Coffee Fellowship** Enjoy a hot cup of coffee, orange juice, sweet danish, bagels and warm fellowship each Sunday morning from 8:30am-9am in our Fellowship Hall. We thank our Pilgrims, Gospel Choir, Bereavement Committee, and CEA/School Staff for hosting our coffee fellowships each week.

**Food Pantry** Food pantry hours are Wednesdays & Fridays from 1-2pm. Volunteers, donations of food, monies, bags, etc., is appreciated. (*Teens can earn community service hours by volunteering*).

**Gym & Hoffman Hall Rental** Our Siloah Center and Hoffmann Hall are available for use. Book your showers, birthdays, recreational activities, etc. Call our school or church office at [414-873-8240](tel:414-873-8240) or [414-873-5770](tel:414-873-5770) for availability.

**Last Week's Attendance:** Bible class, **34**; Worship Service, **105**; Communion, **64**.

**Last Week's Offerings:** Altar Guild, \$6.00; Bereavement Fund, \$6.00; Expansion Fund, \$15.00; Food Pantry, \$11.00; General Fund, \$1740.50; Gifted For Praise (total raised \$107,104.00); Mission Fund, \$100.00; Student Aid (BOE), \$40.00; GRAND TOTAL: \$1,923.50. *Thank you! God bless our offerings and pledges!*

**LWMS New Updates:** (Lutheran Women Missionary Society): **LWMS 2017 Fall Rally**— was held at Zion Lutheran Church and School this past **Saturday**. More information about the rally will be in our upcoming bulletins; **Thank You!** Because of your gifts of love, Siloah raised **\$600** for the LWMS Mission's Project this year; **2018 Prayer Calendars**— Stop by our LWMS desk located by our church bulletin board for order forms. Any questions about LWMS please see our reporters, Annie Mannery and Erica Johnson. *Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our missionaries!*

**Open Enrollment:** Our next open enrollment for the second semester is **November 1st-20th**. We encourage parents and students to enroll as earliest as possible because seats are limited. Please stop by our school office or contact Principal Scott Anthony via email or phone at: [scott.anthony@siloahlutheran.org](mailto:scott.anthony@siloahlutheran.org); office [414-873-8240](tel:414-873-8240) or cell [715-212-4841](tel:715-212-4841). Don't forget to visit our website too at: [siloahlutheran.org](http://siloahlutheran.org) for additional information about our church and school.

**St. Philips** Please join the ladies of **St. Philips** (3012 N. Holton Street, Milwaukee) for a time of fellowship and food as they celebrate their "50 Plus Ladies" 12th Anniversary on **Saturday, October 28th** from **11am-1pm**. Please RSVP by October 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Johnnie at [414-263-3883](tel:414-263-3883) or Sharon at [414-354-5920](tel:414-354-5920). Visit our church bulletin board for more details.

**Sunday Morning Bible Class** Join us each morning at **9am** in our **Fellowship Hall** as we study God's Word. Today, we continue our study on Martin Luther. Don't miss out on the blessings that God intends for you, for others, and for his church. *Don't forget to bring a friend!*

**Sunday School** classes begin each **Sunday** at **9am** for grades **K4 thru 8th**. Our Sunday School teachers are: **Alysia Greer** (K4 & K5); **Sharon Shoffner** (1st & 2nd)/ **Dee Whitfield** (sub); **Simon Robinson** (Superintendent) 3rd & 4th, and **Roddy Guyton** (5th thru 8th). We are teaching lessons from the New Testament. Children are to meet in their respective classrooms. Please encourage your children to come and learn more about God's Word!

**Thank You Pilgrims!** Our Siloah Pilgrim Women's Organization celebrated their **40** year service anniversary this month. What a wonderful milestone! Visit our church bulletin board across from the church/school elevators to read all the blessings detailing their historic journey up to the present time in a series of highlights enlisted, "Did You Know?" Please see Mabel Johns if you are interested in becoming a Pilgrim.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive** Our annual food drive will kick off on **Monday, October 30th** thru **Friday, November 20th**. Our goal is to provide **12** families with a Thanksgiving meal. Please bring nonperishable items such as stuffing mix, boxed or canned potatoes, greens, spinach, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, gravy, etc. Perishable items such as turkeys, pies, cakes, bread, and dairy products, may be brought in on November 19th & 20th. *Please call our church office to ensure storage availability.* All food will be collected and sorted in our Fellowship Hall. Sorters and delivery drivers are needed the week of November 20th from 3pm-5pm. Our school children will also participate. The two upper and lower grade classes who collect the most foods will receive a pizza party hosted by our CEA. We look forward to blessing these families with a happy Thanksgiving!

**Welcome New Member** Charmaine Perry to our Siloah church family of God!

## **Save The Dates**

**500th Reformation Celebration** Sunday, November 5, 2017 at the **Miller High Life Theater** (500 W. Kilbourn Ave., Milwaukee, WI). We will remember Martin Luther, not as a critical figure in western civilization, but as a humble servant whom the Lord Jesus chose to rediscover and restore the treasure of the gospel. Pastor James Huebner, first Vice-president of WELS, will be the guest preacher. Service time is **3:30pm**.

**Pilgrims' Upcoming Events** Our Pilgrims will be hosting their annual **Holiday Fair** and luncheon on **Saturday, November 11th** from **11am-2pm**. Shop then eat lunch from 12:30pm-1:30pm. Ticket cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 5-11, and free for kids 5 and under. See your bulletin insert for more information; The Pilgrims will also have their annual **holiday bake sale** on **Sunday, November 19th** after the morning service. Enjoy delicious homemade pies, cakes, brownies, and cookies. *Take some home for the holiday!*

**Thanksgiving Service w/Communion** Service time is **Thursday, November 23rd at 10AM**. Thank God for all His goodness!

**Advent Song Service** Sunday, December 10th. Service 10am.

*\*Dates & times subject to change. Check weekly for new updates!*

## **May God Bless Your Worship With Us Today!**

**To Our Guests:** We are pleased that you are worshipping with us today. If you have any questions about our church please contact us at 414-873-5770. **Ushers** are always available to help, a **Mother's Room** is located near the church front doors. **Restrooms** are located downstairs. **Children's Bulletins** and crayons are available for coloring –please ask one of our church ushers. **Cell Phones** please silence or turn off during service time. **Pulpit Door Usage** once service begins, please refrain from using these side doors by the pulpit.

*Thank you!*



**Siloah Pilgrims' Fall Holiday Fair**  
**When: Saturday, November 11, 2017**  
**Where: Siloah Fellowship Hall**  
**What: Food, Crafts, Baked Goodies, and Gifts**  
**Time: 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**  
**Meal served from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
**Meal Tickets (sold at the door): \$10 Adults and \$5 (Ages 5 - 11)**

 **Share with others the**  
*Key Truths*  
 OF THE BIBLE

**Siloah Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
 3721 N. 21st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53206  
 Pastor Brady Coleman  
 For more information, call 414-873-5770  
 or visit us at [siloahlutheran.org](http://siloahlutheran.org)

**November 2017 Siloah Lutheran Church Outreach Newsletter**

## Sing for Joy to the Lord

**Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. - Psalm 95:1-2**

Many of us like to sing. Even if we are hesitant to sing publicly, when we are alone in the car or at home, often we sing along when we hear our favorite songs.

We love to sing for a lot of reasons—joy, love, sorrow, even fear sometimes.

Our best reason to sing is given in the Bible verse: “Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.”

We live in changing times. Change means uncertainty. Culture, the future, security, economy, jobs, politics, family—these are life’s experiences that bring us more change that we are sometimes comfortable with. In this sea of change, we can always depend on the unchanging Rock of our salvation.

Salvation is the Bible’s word for God rescuing us from the consequences we should receive for all of our sins. We don’t give God the respect he is worthy of. We second guess how God deals with us and this world. We don’t give God the love he deserves. He comes in second or third or four

hundred fortieth on our love list. Our actions and attitude pile up a boatload of trouble for us. God should reject and punish us.

But instead of dishing out what we deserve, the Rock of our salvation rescued us. In his great love, God chose to rescue us by sending his Son to suffer sin’s consequences for us. God will never punish us for our sins because he already punished Jesus for them. God’s choices and actions are unchangeable history. Our Rock of salvation will not shift his position or change his mind. He has rescued us from our sins. This fact will outlast the universe!

So we sing to the Rock of our salvation. We sing for joy because God has forgiven us. We sing songs about his sure promises to chase away our fears and heal our wounded hearts. We sing to express our love to God who will never stop loving us.

Go ahead and sing to the Rock of our salvation. If you aren’t sure what to sing, or would like company singing to the Lord, come and worship with us. We have found real comfort and genuine joy in singing together the praises of our Lord.