



## Virtual Service 9 January 2022

**Welcome!**

**(Larry Robbins)**

We hope and pray that this service will be a great blessing to you today and that soon you will be able to meet with the other members of our church family in person. Today, for the first time in several months, those meeting at the church will be sharing in tea or coffee after the service. After you finish participating virtually in this service, why not make yourself a drink and vicariously join with the fellowship?

**Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is Our God**

**(Brian Lima)**

“The Lord calls us to sing out to Him. The Lord calls us to rest in His strength and protection. Join with the Lord in song as we sing, *A Mighty Fortress is Our God.*”

### [A Mighty Fortress is Our God](#)

**Call to Worship *Psalm 9:1–2; 9–10***

**(Brian Lima)**

“Be filled with God’s Spirit that we may all worship Him as true children of God. Let us be like the psalmist who said,”

<sup>1</sup> *I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.*

<sup>2</sup> *I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

<sup>9</sup> *The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.*

<sup>10</sup> *And those who know your name put their trust in you,  
for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.*

**Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

**(Brian Lima)**

### [O God, Our Help in Ages Past](#)

**Prayer**

**(Rosemary Cavander)**

*Lord our heavenly Father we thank you again for your love, grace and mercy. We are Your children and we come before you today with thankful hearts, knowing that You are ever present with us no matter our circumstances. Some are worshipping you together in our church building but others are worshipping you from their own homes, or where*

*they are getting extra care for their physical needs. But where ever we are, we can claim Your holy presence with us. We give You thanks again for the special moments we had over the Christmas period acknowledging the birth of Your Son Jesus, and contemplating the reason He came to dwell with us, to open the door to have everlasting fellowship with you.*

*We acknowledge Your great faithfulness to us all, over this past year with all its fears and having to change our 'normal' routines, releasing loved ones into Your Presence as their earthly lives have ended, so many disruptions to our plans to travel, and being isolated from loved ones because of Covid restrictions. But through it all, You, our loving Father have guided us through the past year.*

*Already several days have passed into this new year, and despite new year resolutions we have stumbled, forgetting our priority to put You O Lord first into our lives, forgetting to ask You for guidance every morning for whatever comes our way. Forgive us for our sins small and great as we have turned to our own way, only to come before You asking for Your help and direction when we find ourselves confused, fearful and unsure of the way. Thank You Lord, that You so willingly and gently nurture us to get on the path that You designed for us, a path that gives us a hope and our faith grows again. You are such a loving Father that You desire to see us come into Your presence asking for help, knowing that You alone have the right path for us to follow into the new year. Prayer is the highest expression of our dependence on You our God. We can claim from Your Word that we are not to be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, we are to present our requests to You our God (Phil 4: 6) We know that anything large enough to occupy our minds is large enough to hang a prayer on. We ask that we have patience to wait until You Lord give us what we request, in Your timing and in Your way, which is always perfect.*

*Lord God there are members absent today because they are unwell, or needing to be close to support their loved ones. We pray that they all feel a special touch of Your love surrounding them in their residences, or care facilities. For those recovering from surgery, those waiting for medical procedures, and medical appointments, we pray that medicines can relieve some of their pain, and also give them the assurance that You know their pain, and can ease their minds as they ponder on Your goodness.*

*Lord God we may not know WHAT the future holds, but we do know WHO holds the future. Thank you for guiding our fellowship here at Milford Baptist, for the leadership team and Pastor Brian who have so willingly kept us in touch with those who can attend our Sunday morning worship, and also keeping in touch with those who cannot be present with us. All around us there is a great shaking of earthly values and earthly kingdoms, but Lord this is the time when You want Christians everywhere to look up and see that You O Lord are still the God of the Universe , Omnipresent and Omnipotent. We thank You for the written Word, the Bible where we can find every answer, and also guidance as we tread into this new year. May we come closer to you in every way, so that in a year's time we can reflect and say – I know whom I have believed and He has guided and sometimes carried me through this year of challenges and blessings.*

*Even now O Lord God, may the Holy Spirit be gently nudging unsaved people everywhere to find Jesus Christ who will fill them with that longing they have had without a Saviour. We pray especially for those smaller Christian churches through our land who are struggling financially and have congregations where people are unable to gather together again to worship You. Lord we commit them and ourselves into Your Hands for all our tomorrows.*

*Thank You for the finances that provide for our physical needs. Please accept the donations that are given today, to be used wisely to the furtherance of Your Kingdom here and overseas. Thank You for hearing our prayers through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

*Amen!*

## Hymn: Ancient Words

(Brian Lima)

“In preparation for today’s reading from the Bible, let us give our hearts to God’s Spirit that we would treasure God’s words to us. Let the Spirit cause us to sing *Ancient Words* with joy.”

### [Ancient Words](#)

## Bible Reading *James 1:1–8; 12–15*

<sup>1</sup> *James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:*

*Greetings.*

<sup>2</sup> *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

<sup>5</sup> *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

<sup>12</sup> *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

## Sermon

(Brian Lima)

[Watch the Sermon](#)

[Read the Sermon](#)

## Hymn: Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

(Brian Lima)

“This is a new song. May the Spirit draw you closer to joy as lift up your voice in praise.”

### [Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near](#)

## Benediction

(Brian Lima)

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

*Romans 15:13*