

Isaiah 40
Comfort for Exiles

Main Point: As exiles awaiting the Promised Land, God wants us to find comfort in His promises, His holiness, and His strength.

March 5, 2023

I. Believe God's Promise to Come and Save Us (40:1-11)

Prelude
Congregational Sharing
*Greeting One Another

Jamie Brill

APPROACH TO GOD

Luke 3:1-6

*Call to Worship
*Song of Praise
God So Loved
*Prayer of Praise
*Song of Praise
Come Thou Fount

II. Know God's Holiness & Power (40:12-26)

RENEWAL IN CHRIST

Confession of Sin
Assurance of Forgiveness
Song of Assurance
Yet Not I but Christ in Me

Psalm 103:8-14

THE WORD OF GOD

The Sacrament of Baptism
(Children's Church – ages 3-5)
Scripture Reading
Sermon

Isaiah 40

"Comfort for Exiles"

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III. Wait for God's Strength to the Weary (40:27-31)

RESPONSE TO GOD

Offertory Prayer
Song of Response
*Affirmation of Faith
Congregational Prayer
*Benediction
*Doxology
*Postlude

How Firm a Foundation
Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1

Hymn #338

Jan Jerabek

FAITH REFORMED

CHURCH

Rev. Zach Tarter, Pastor Jon Damkot, Youth Director
243 S 4th St, Cedar Grove, WI 53013 920.668.6725
www.faithreformedchurch.org

Our Worship

As we gather to worship this morning through faith in Christ, we are entering into conversation with God as He speaks in His Word and is with us by the Spirit. Our worship service has an intentional movement that focuses on the Gospel:

- We begin with our **APPROACH TO GOD**, hearing a call to worship from His word and then responding to Him with songs and prayers of praise.
- We then have a time of **RENEWAL IN CHRIST** in which we confess our sins and hear His promise of forgiveness in His word and through song.
- Assured of His grace, we then listen to **THE WORD OF GOD** as it is preached from our passage for that day, and we all receive the sacrament of communion monthly as a “visible word” from God.
- After hearing the Word preached, we end our service with our **RESPONSE TO GOD**. We give offerings, affirm our faith, pray for needs in the congregation and world, and hear a blessing from God before singing a final praise to Him.

Through it all, God intends to bless us and change us by His grace so that we would go into the world to live for His glory. So let us come in humble faith, ready to hear and respond to our God and Savior.

Reflections

“Though exile to Babylon was coming, the eye of faith...sees beyond it to the time of redemption...These words [of comfort] bring light into a deep, dark cave where there is no obvious exit” (Andrew Abernethy).

“What churches and pastors need more than anything else is a great big vision of a great big God” (Stephen Whitmer).

If you wish to reach Pastor Zach, you may dial the church office or reach him by cell phone at 920-212-5489. His office hours are Tuesday-Friday 9:30-5:30. If you are unable to reach Pastor Zach you may contact the Elder on call. Elder on call for March is **Jeff Risseuw** (920-980-6252)

Prayer Guide

Praises and Thanksgivings

Jesus Resurrection
Our living hope in Jesus

Petitions

That our state and nation would value life and protect life in the womb
For people to hear the gospel hope
A heart of submission to Christ
Spiritual wisdom and discernment
Commitment to be reading Scripture
Discipline and courage to obey
To be guided by Scripture, not culture
Boldness and grace toward falsehood
Courage to stand firm for the gospel
Our ministry in the PCA
Pastor Zach Tarter
Jon Damkot – Youth Director
Disciple making at Faith Reformed
Spiritual revival
Our government leaders
Our youth to grow in Christ
Those serving in the military
The unity of Cedar Grove churches
Those with addictions/in jail or prison
Our persecuted brothers & sisters

Health

Gail Meerdink – receiving of treatment for some cancer spots that were found;
Gil Meinen – continues to receive chemo treatment for blood cancer
Wayne Navis – recovering from a surgery due to his infection – still very weak
Ruth Ann Wieberdink – is doing better but still has some back pain
Jean Schreurs – is home and receiving therapy, pray for continued healing
Herb Dirkse – is at the Belgium Gardens and moving soon to the Cedar Grove Gardens
Delores Waech – she is home and doing well and is continuing with therapy
Donna Caljouw – has kidney cancer and will be receiving treatments

Shut-ins

Delores Droppers

Mission & Outreach

Pioneers – Bill & Liz Ferguson - Croatia
For our unchurched neighbors

Schedule

TODAY

Worship Service – 9:00am
Sunday School – 10:30am
Core – 6:00pm

Monday – 6:30pm Women’s Ministry Team Meeting

Tuesday – 1:30pm Ladies of Faith
8:00pm Men’s Bible Study

Wednesday – 6:00pm Connect @ EPC
6:30pm Prayer Meeting
6:30pm Adventure Island

Thursday – 6:00am Men’s Bible Study
9:30am Women’s Bible Study
4:00-6:30pm Food Pantry

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FAITH:

March 12 – Communion

Ushers for March: Ben Droppers, Dane Van Allen, Tyler Wonser

Nursery for March 5: Mary Broetzmann & Alana Morgan

Nursery for March 12: Beth Rauwerdink & Ben Torrenga

Refreshments for March: Care Group #2 (Jane & Lynn)

Greeters March 5 - **Narthex:** Mike & Wendy Heinen
- **Great Room:** Matt & Macy Ewing Family

Greeters March 12 - **Narthex:** Clint & Liz Eberspacher Family
- **Great Room:** Jeff & Vickie Hollander

Serving in the Military:

Jackson DeRuyter
721 New Mexico Ave.
PO Box 1338
Holloman AFB, NM 88330

PFC Josh Coley – US Army serving in
Ansbach, Germany
CMR 454
Box 2371
APO, AE 09250

Family Life at Faith

The Cedar Grove Area Food Pantry served 24 families at the February Food Pantry. The next Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, March 9th. Right now, we are in need of PASTA, cereal, soup, and canned vegetables. **PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATES ON YOUR DONATIONS!** If you could help us serve one month – please contact Faith Reformed Church (920-668-6725). Thank you for your generosity!

Love Inc. –In March we are collecting - blankets, pillows, bedding for all sizes (gently used items accepted). For questions on your donations, please contact your Love, Inc Representative, Jodi Danforth (920-254-1385). Thank you.

Seniors - The Care Connection will be hosting a Senior Luncheon here at Faith Church on Wednesday, May 3rd at noon. The guest speaker will be Rhonda Meerdink on her work at Acuity with the flag. There is a sign-up sheet in the information center.

Faith Family Newsletter was sent out this week. If you prefer a paper copy, you can pick one up in the information center.

The Tuesday evening women’s small group started a new study on Tuesday, February 28. We invite women of the church to join us as we begin “Knowing His Great Name” by Michael and Rachel Craddock. This study will take us through the Old and New Testaments as we look at the character and promises of God. We meet in the church library from 6:30 - 7:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. Please contact Jodi Danforth if you have any questions or would like to order a book. You can call or text her at 920-254-1385.

Easter Flower Order sheets - We have order sheets in the bulletin and the Information center. If you wish to order a flower to decorate the church for Easter, please fill out the order sheet and put it in the envelope in the church office. If you choose to do this in remembrance of a loved one, please fill that out as well on the order sheet. Don’t forget to **mark the color plant** you want and **make checks out to Faith Reformed Church. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 12th**. You will be able to take your plant home after the Easter Service.

Family Life at Faith

In the **RightNow Media Holidays Library**, our church has access to encouraging and inspiring Easter video content, including Bible studies as well as short video illustrations and family devotionals. If you already have an account with them all you have to do is log in. If you don't have an account, you can log in using the following information. **It is free** and they have great resources!

Invite Link: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/faithreformed>

Text Code: FAITHREFORMED to 49775

Ladies of Faith will meet on Tuesday, March 7 at 1:30pm to study lesson #4 led by Carolyn Bruggink. Hostesses are Carolyn Bruggink and Gail Meerdink. You can pick up a copy of the secretary and treasurer reports in the information center.

MEN'S MINISTRY MADNESS - All men, post-high & older, are invited to Jim Meinen's home (927 Berenschot Trail) on Thursday, March 16th for fellowship, food & full coverage of March Madness! Wings & beverages will be provided but feel free to bring a snack or appetizer to share. Come when you can any time after 5:30pm.

Whether you can make it on the 16th or not, if you'd like to join the **Men's Ministry March Madness Pick 8 League**, watch your texts from 87447 for a link with instructions on Monday, March 13th. If you do not currently receive church texts and would like to join, text Jon at (920) 447-2335 before 3/12.

Thank you to everyone who reached out with cards, goodies, meals, and texts/phone calls, during Bob's surgery and recovery. We so appreciate being part of such a caring church family. Thanks to everyone who reached out to check on Bob's dad Herb during the past couple of months as well.

Bob & Kelly Dirkse

Youth News

CORE (Grades 6-12) - **Tonight, March 5th** Core small group Bible studies meet at **Faith Reformed** from **6:00-7:00PM!**

CONNECT (Grades 6-12) - **Wednesday, March 8th** students are invited to Connect with each other and God at **EPC** from **6:00-7:30PM!** Worship begins at 6:20.

Adventure Island (Grades 5K-5) - **Wednesday, March 8th** Adventure Island will meet at **Faith Reformed** from **6:30-7:30**. Registration and games begin at 6:10.

Pastabilities - **THANK YOU** to all who donated to the Pastabilities fundraiser or helped out in any way! It was a great success. Please continue to pray for the 27 students going on the JAARS trip in June.

Mulch For Missions - As a reminder, if you'll be ordering mulch by the bag this Spring, let the youth deliver it for you this April! Watch for sign-up information over the next month.

The March Adventure Island memory verse is: "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13
