



# BRIGHT HOPE

## HOW JESUS' PARABLES ILLUMINATE OUR DARKEST DAYS

**January 3 - Luke 11:5-13**  
**THE POWER OF PERSISTENCE**

January 10 - Matthew 18:21-35  
THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

January 17 - Matthew 13:24-30  
THE POWER OF COURAGE

January 24 - Luke 14:16-24  
THE POWER OF INVITATION

FIRST BAPTIST KNOXVILLE - 11 AM SERVICE

## **Prelude | Brandon Coffey**

*In the Bleak Midwinter* | Mary McDonald

## **Choral Call to Worship | Quartet**

*Majesty* | Hayford/arr. Schrader

Majesty, worship His majesty.  
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority.  
Flow from His throne unto His own. His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.  
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.  
Majesty, worship His majesty.  
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.

He is Lord, lift up His name, the name of Jesus.  
He is risen from the dead, and He is Lord. He is Lord.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and Mighty!  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Majesty, worship His majesty.  
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.  
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.

## **Welcome | Tim Boone**

## **Children's Sermon | Brent McDougal**

## **Congregational Hymn 641**

*Higher Ground* | HIGHER GROUND

I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I onward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."  
Lord, lift me up and let me stand, by faith, on heaven's tableland,  
A higher plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Though some may dwell where these abound, my prayer, my aim is higher ground.  
Lord, lift me up and let me stand, by faith, on heaven's tableland,  
A higher plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

I want to live above the world, though Satan's darts at me are hurled;  
For faith has caught the joyful sound, the song of saints on higher ground.  
Lord, lift me up and let me stand, by faith, on heaven's tableland,  
A higher plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height and catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found, "Lord, lead me on to higher ground."  
Lord, lift me up and let me stand, by faith, on heaven's tableland,  
A higher plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

## Responsive Reading | Richard Buerkle

Leader: With determination in our hearts, and filled with the Hope of Christ,  
we turn our gaze upon a new year.

**People: Your Word says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future."**

Leader: Today we come to recommit ourselves to a new year and a new life as faithful followers of Christ.

**People: Your Word says, "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."**

Leader: Great is Thy faithfulness, to bring bright hope for tomorrow.

**People: Your Word says, "Love the LORD, all his faithful people! The LORD preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD."**

## Congregational Hymn 48

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness* | FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou has been, Thou forever wilt be.  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

## **Pastoral Prayer | Brent McDougal**

### **Special Music | Richard Buerkle**

*Hallowed* | Jennifer Knapp

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
Hallowed, hallowed.

Done on the earth as it is in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Give us this our daily bread,  
Hallowed, hallowed.

And please forgive all of our debts,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
As we forgive our debtors,  
Hallowed, hallowed.

Lead us not into temptation's lair,  
Deliver us from the evil snare:  
For Thine is the kingdom, power and glory,  
Forever and ever, Amen. Forever and ever, Amen.  
Forever and ever, Amen.  
Hallowed, hallowed.

## Scripture Reading (Luke 11:5-13) | Pam Neal

<sup>5</sup> Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' <sup>6</sup> because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'

<sup>7</sup> "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'<sup>8</sup> I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

<sup>9</sup> So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon | Brent McDougal

**"Bright Hope For Tomorrow: How Jesus' Parables Illuminate Our Darkest Days - The Power of Persistence" | Luke 11:5-13**

## Invitation Hymn 400

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand* | PRECIOUS LORD

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear precious Lord, linger near;  
When my life is almost gone;  
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

## **Spoken Benediction | Brent McDougal**

### **Benediction Hymn (stanza 1)**

*Another Year Is Dawning* | AURELIA

Another year is dawning: Dear Father, let it be,  
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;  
Another year of progress, another year of praise,  
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

### **Organ Postlude | Rhonda Carpenter**

*Another Year is Dawning* | Mary McDonald

# SERMONNOTES

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## "THE POWER OF PERSISTENCE"

LUKE 11:5-13

Jesus taught that you should always pray and never give up (Luke 18:1), but sometimes you may wonder if your prayers make any difference. You may wonder if God even cares for you. Furthermore, you may face temptations that cause you to lose heart. Discouragement is a real enemy.

**Where do you need persistent prayer in your life? Name that need.**

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The parable of the persistent friend may be one of the most misunderstood stories of Jesus. Does it mean that God is like a sleeping neighbor behind a locked door? Do we have to bang loudly and long enough on the door so that God will get up and give us what we need, even though God doesn't want to?

Not at all.

The parable is an example of a Hebrew rabbinic teaching tool called a *qal wahomer*. That means "from the light to the heavy." If an earthly neighbor will get up and give what his neighbor needs just so he'll stop banging at the door, then *how much more* will a loving Heavenly Father give good gifts to God's children?

**Why is persistent prayer so powerful?**

1. Persistent prayer \_\_\_\_\_ you to experience God's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Persistent prayer keeps you \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Spirit so you become more like \_\_\_\_\_.

**Unlike the man in the parable, God is \_\_\_\_\_ and waiting on you.**  
That gives great hope!

There's hope for your \_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus died for you and then rose from the grave.

# SERMONNOTES

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“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person, someone might possibly dare to die. But **God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**” (Romans 5:8, NIV)

There’s hope for your \_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus is praying for you right now and always.

“Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also **interceding for us.**” (Romans 8:34, NIV)

“Therefore, He is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through Him. **He lives forever to intercede with God** on their behalf.” (Hebrews 7:25, NLT)

There’s hope for your future because Jesus will come back one day and set \_\_\_\_\_ right.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that **I am going there to prepare a place for you?** And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**” (John 14:1-3, NIV)

Pick your greatest challenge, and commit it to persistent prayer.

**It is always too \_\_\_\_\_ to give up on God.**

What is God saying to you today? What do you need to do in response?

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# SEASON OF PRAYER

## FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

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### *WEEKLY FOCUS:*

### *BROOKE & MIKE - SOUTHEAST ASIA*

Brooke and Mike serve in Southeast Asia among a community to which Christianity is fairly new. They serve alongside the local church as ministers of hospitality to students, drawing from their city's many college and university campuses. They seek transformational development as they serve the local population through education initiatives and English as a Second Language training.

### *PRAYER FOCUS:*

Pray for Brooke and Mike to bear witness to the peace of Christ as they partner with interfaith colleagues to promote religious freedom, interreligious dialogue, and reconciliation in a country splintered by religious tensions ([www.cbf.net/brookemike](http://www.cbf.net/brookemike)). In Afghanistan, a person may be killed for leaving their faith and openly following Jesus. Petition for God's protection and wisdom as believers step out in faith. Ask God to soften their families' hearts to receive the good news. In many countries, it is illegal to share the gospel. Yet believers endure the hardships and persecutions. Thank God for bold believers, and pray for the new believers who are being discipled and making disciples. Petition God to bless them with faith and grace to follow Him.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Wednesday Night Bible Study

*Wednesday, January 6 | 6 pm | Sanctuary*

Wednesday Night Bible Study resumes this Wednesday!

You are welcome to join us in person in the Sanctuary or watch the livestream on Facebook, YouTube, or our website ([fbcknox.org](https://fbcknox.org)). We are looking forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year!



## First Community Resumes

*Sunday, January 10 | 8:45 am | Trentham Hall*

First Community starts back up on January 10th! We are excited to resume this service, so join us that Sunday morning for contemporary worship led by our First Community Band. Please be prepared to wear your masks and follow social distancing rules. Chairs will be spaced out six feet apart to help distance. See you for worship!



## Ongoing Missions Opportunities

To learn more about ongoing volunteer opportunities, please visit “Service Opportunities” under the “Ministries” tab at [fbcknox.org](https://fbcknox.org). For more information, contact Tim Boone at [tboone@fbcknox.org](mailto:tboone@fbcknox.org).



MISSION

## Sign-up to be a Benevolence Team Member!

The Benevolence Team demonstrates the love of Jesus by interviewing clients and offering material and financial resources to those in need. To serve in this ministry, you will need to attend several training sessions that we will offer in 2021. Please contact Tim Boone at [tboone@fbcknox.org](mailto:tboone@fbcknox.org) to sign up.



## Sunday Bulletin & Sermon Notes: Online

If you watch our 11 am worship service at home and would like to participate in Dr. McDougal's Sermon Notes found in the bulletin each week, please be aware that the Sunday Bulletin is available online! To access the Sunday Bulletin, visit our website ([fbcknox.org](http://fbcknox.org)), and under the "Media" tab, click "Publications." You may also copy and paste the following link: <https://fbcknox.org/media/view/publications/> Bulletins are uploaded to the website the Friday preceding the Sunday service.



## Inclement Weather Policy

If Knox County Schools close on a weekday due to the weather, we cancel all activities that day, including meetings. For weekend activities, we will make decisions based on conditions and share them with you, posting closings or delays on local television stations, [fbcknox.org](http://fbcknox.org), and our Facebook. The 11 am service will be held each Sunday. If you have any questions, contact the church office.



**Today is the first Sunday of the month. We will receive our Community Care/ Benevolence Offering, which allows us to meet critical needs in our community.**

**Please drop your offering in the Offering Boxes next to the Sanctuary doors.**

<b>Revenue (all sources)</b>	Nov '20	Fiscal YTD	<b>Last Week's Attendance</b>
	\$134,663	\$689,348	Worship Total
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>\$122,107</u>	<u>\$620,948</u>	66
<b>Excess/Deficit</b>	\$12,555	\$68,400	(does not reflect at-home viewers)



## Contacts

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## CONNECT

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## First Baptist Knoxville

**Main Number** | 865-546-9661

To reach the Minister On Call, please call the main church number and when prompted for an extension, choose option 9.