

JUNE 2023 WORSHIP GUIDE

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of June 2023.

Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family. - Pastor Jonathan

Does a “Most-Accurate” Bible Translation Exist?

Understanding Different Translations and Learning to Read Multiple Versions

Are you looking for a good, or maybe the best, Bible translation? On a Bible website or app, have you found yourself scrolling through abbreviations like NIV, NLT, NASB, ESV, NET, or CSB and wondering what the difference is between them? Since Tyndale’s English translation in 1526, translators and publishers have created approximately 900 different English Bibles, making it hard to know which to choose.

In the end, no single version of the Bible will perfectly capture every thought or nuance communicated through the Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic writing in our available manuscripts. And that’s okay! Rather than attempting to identify the most accurate or best translation, we, like scholars, can learn to read and compare different versions in order to gain a deeper, fuller understanding of Scripture.

Scholars developing English translations of the Bible are balancing two goals: reliability and readability. They want to stay true to the wording of original-language manuscripts, while also providing an understandable reading experience. Sometimes we assume that a strictly literal, word-for-word translation would be the most accurate, but that doesn’t always work.

Someone translating John 3:16 “ word-for-word into English from the original Greek text without trying to make it readable would likely end up with something like this:

For so loved, God, the world, that his Son, the only begotten, he gave, that everyone who is believing on him may not perish, but may life unto the age.

Most published translations will not render the original language this awkwardly. However, some translations, like the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the New King James Version (NKJV), will give more weight to matching the original language word-for-word. Translations like the New Living Translation (NLT) and the Contemporary English Version (CEV) give more weight to readability. And paraphrases push the readability goal even further. Bibles like The Living Bible (TLB) and Eugene Peterson’s The Message (MSG) take more creative license to adjust words, capturing a dynamic thought-for-thought translation rather than literal word-for-word.

Any thesaurus proves that we usually have more than one word to convey a single idea. Is winter weather cold, icy, frigid, chilly, or frosty? Each word might be true, but one might be better than the others, depending on the context. This is true in every language, which creates complex challenges for Bible translators.

Continued on page 4

June Worship

Worship June 4 Trinity Sunday

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 1:1-2:4a; Ps 8; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20

Call To Worship

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a defense because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet. O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! We praise your name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Triune God, You alone live in perfect relationship, One God in three persons. Mutual and loving. Ever seeking reconciliation and unity. You have called us to live in your completion, yet we confess that our relationships are imperfect, and we are incomplete without you. We are selfish and greedy. We are anxious and resentful. We feel the shame of our foolish behavior and brokenness. We have allowed sin to drive us apart from one another and from you. Forgive us and restore us. Draw us close and bind us together in your mercy. May we long for wholeness and peace. May we strive toward gratitude and grace. By God our Father's love, in the saving name of your son, Jesus Christ, and by the working power of your Holy Spirit, do we pray.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all creation, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. We offer our gifts in gratitude, not just for what you do in our lives, but for who you are in our lives. You are with us in the person of the Father, the God above us. You come to meet us as the Son, as God beside us. You empower us to do the work of kingdom-building by the Holy Spirit – God within us, providing strength and boldness that we would never find on our own. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray in the name of one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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## Worship June 11

### Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 12:1-9; Ps 33:1-12; Rom 4:13-25; Matt 9:9-13, 18-26

### Call To Worship

Come! Now is the time to worship! We worship with a community of believers. We gather today as people God calls to go and share the good news. We gather as God's sent-out people. We gather to listen and share God's work in our lives, our families, and our neighborhoods. We proclaim the goodness of God's love together. We gather to respond to God's grace as we continue on the path of discipleship. We hear God's call and learn to say "yes" to God together. We gather to again hear God's call to "Go!" as God commissions us to love God and neighbor in everything that we do. We go knowing that as God's called, gathered, and sent-out people, we are not alone as we carry the weight of God's call into the world together.

### Prayer of Confession

God who loves us and calls us, we confess that we are not always open to receiving your call on our lives. We make excuses. We choose not to listen. We believe that others would do it better than we can. Forgive us for all the times we say no--or nothing at all—to your call. We confess that we value the false certainty of our own path over the uncertainty of journeying with you and one another on the path of discipleship. Forgive us for all the ways we choose what we think we know over joining you in the holy unknown. We confess that we value the calls of some over others, putting the paths of some up on pedestals while not recognizing the many who answer your call as quiet, behind-the-scenes disciples. Forgive us for neglecting the beautiful and varied calls you place on each of our lives. Forgive us, God, and free us to joyfully bear the weight of your call on our lives as members together of the Body of Christ, redeemed and united by your love.

# June Worship

## Worship June 11 - continued

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of eternity and God of the next moment: we offer our gifts today having heard your call through Jesus to follow. Remind us again this day that being a follower doesn't end at the offering plate. There is a weight to this call – one that demands we not only say “yes” to following but that we also say “no” to thousands of things that will lead us away from the discipleship path. Guide us that we might not wander off that road. In Christ, we pray. Amen

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Worship June 18 - Father's Day

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 18:1-15; Ps 116:1-2, 12-19; Rom 5:1-8; Matt 9:35-10:8-23

Call To Worship

Welcome, you who are called as disciples of Christ! Is anything too wonderful for our God? Nothing is too wonderful for God who saves us and calls us! We remember the goodness of God who promised Abraham a multitude of descendants and then showed up at Abraham's door to announce that the promise would be fulfilled. Nothing is too wonderful for God who promises and fulfills promises! We remember the compassion of Jesus who noticed the distress of his neighbors and acted to bring them healing and wholeness. Nothing is too wonderful for God who heals and restores the distressed! We remember the invitation the Spirit extends to us to join in God's work of compassionate community building. Nothing is too wonderful for God who empowers us to transform strangers into community through active love. As we worship, may we receive the promise, the compassion, and the invitation to be disciples of Christ who join in God's work of making disciples for the transformation of our households, our community, and our world. Because nothing is too wonderful for our God! Amen

Prayer of Confession

You call us to be a priestly people and a holy nation, but we, like lost sheep, go astray. We know that peace comes through openness to our neighbors, but we make little effort to crash the walls between us. We know that the soft answer turns away wrath, but we greet our enemies with hard words and even harder looks. We know that self-giving breeds self-givers, but we refuse others the grace with which you treat us. We criticize fellow believers for not patterning their lives after Jesus, yet we do not mirror his life. Forgive us, O God, for our betrayal of your call. Open our ears that we might hear your commandments and transform our hearts that we might keep your covenant.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Mighty God, with your powerful arms, hold up your church! We are struggling through tough times in our churches; we need to be renewed again and filled with your power. Reach inside us and open hearts wide that we might give the full measure of our devotion. As you revived the saints who came before us, revive us to go out and welcome the forgotten, heal the sick, speak the words of comfort and hope to the discouraged. In the holy name of Christ, we pray. Amen

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## Worship June 25

### **Scriptures to read and meditate on**

Gen 21:8-21; Ps 86:1-10, 16-17; Rom 6:1b-11; Matt 10:24-39

### **Call To Worship**

People of the Father, tell it! We are not alone! We are children of God! People of Christ, tell it! The Light has come in love and truth, teaching us to live in the Light. People of the Spirit, tell it! The Spirit of truth reveals hidden things, offering healing through honest confession. People of God, tell it! We are not alone! We are children of God! Amen.

# June Worship

## Worship June 25 - Continued

### Prayer of Confession

God of Justice and Mercy, we know that we have fallen silent when we should have spoken up. We have ignored the cries of the innocent and joined the crowds in calls of judgment. We have mistaken justice for revenge and have sought punishment to ease our pain. Forgive us, God, for not seeing our own faults, our own sins, and for not holding ourselves responsible for our inactions and injustices. Restore us to the ways Jesus taught us, to drop our stones and instead take up our cross and follow you. Call us into the paths of love and reconciliation, knowing Your mercy extends to all of us, Your grace is a gift, and there is nothing we can do to deserve or earn it. Guide us into living into Your forgiveness, peace, and reconciliation, in the name of the Prince of Peace.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Generous, giving God: the gifts we present this day are supposed to represent the best of our discipleship. Why then do we hide what we give, and why do we worry about who might know? Grant us the boldness we need to move out of the dark and proclaim our decision to be Christ's disciples to all, to shout it from the rooftops. May we speak to those we know and even to strangers of the love of Jesus without fear. May the way we live our lives be a proclamation of our decision to follow Christ! In His holy name, we pray. Amen.

### Does a "Most-Accurate" Bible Translation Exist? Continued from front cover.....

For one Hebrew example, notice how a selection of translations will render the Hebrew word *rakhum* (mercy, compassion) in Psalm 79:8

*King James Version, KJV* - O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy **tender mercies** (Heb. *rakhum*) speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.

*New American Standard Bible, NASB* - Do not hold us responsible for the guilty deeds of our forefathers; let your **compassion** (Heb. *rakhum*) come quickly to meet us, for we have become very low.

*New International Version, NIV* - Do not hold against us the sins of past generations; may your **mercy** (Heb. *rakhum*) come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need.

*New Living Translation, NLT* - Do not hold us guilty for the sins of our ancestors! Let your **compassion** (Heb. *rakhum*) quickly meet our needs, for we are on the brink of despair.

*Contemporary English Version, CEV* - Don't make us pay for the sins of our ancestors. Have **pity**(Heb. *rakhum*) and come quickly! We are completely helpless.

*The Message, MSG* - Don't blame us for the sins of our parents. Hurry up and **help** (Heb. *rakhum*) us; we're at the end of our rope.

*The Living Bible, TLB* - Oh, do not hold us guilty for our former sins! Let your **tenderhearted mercies** (Heb. *rakhum*) meet our needs, for we are brought low to the dust.

It's clear we have more than one way to understand the Hebrew word *rakhum*: tender mercies, compassion, mercy, pity, help, and tenderhearted mercies. Seeing and respecting variations helps us humbly continue the work it takes to understand the words of others. We can see how multiple English renderings of the same idea give us a deeper understanding of *rakhum*, not to mention all the other words.

For another example, try reading multiple translations of 1 Samuel 13:1 . Some will say that King Saul was a toddler when he became a ruler, while others put him in his 30s. Some say he reigned for two years, and others say he reigned for 30 years. When you hit a passage like that, you can be sure the original manuscript evidence we have is hard for even the best biblical scholars to decipher.

Let's check out a Greek example with a line from the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Galatia—  
Galatians 3:24

He uses the Greek word *paidagogos* (guardian/tutor), which is challenging to convey in English, and this passage has been a source of debate for centuries.

*English Standard Version, ESV* - So then, the law was our **guardian** (Grk. *paidagogos*) until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

*King James Bible, KJV* - Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster** (Grk. *paidagogos*) to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

*New American Standard Bible 1995, NASB 1995* - Therefore the law has become our **tutor** (Grk. *paidagogos*) to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

*New Living Translation, NLT* - Let me put it another way. The law was our **guardian** (Grk. *paidagogos*) until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.

*Contemporary English Version, CEV* - In fact, the law was to be our **teacher** (Grk. *paidagogos*) until Christ came. Then we could have faith and be acceptable to God.

*New Revised Standard Version, NRSV* - Therefore the law was our **disciplinarian** (Grk. *paidagogos*) until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith.

*The Message, MSG* - The law was like those Greek **tutors** (Grk. *paidagogos*), with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for.

*The Living Bible, TLB* - Let me put it another way. The Jewish laws were our **teacher and guide** (Grk. *paidagogos*) until Christ came to give us right standing with God through our faith.

So is the law like a tutor, a teacher, a guardian, a disciplinarian, or a schoolmaster? We can conclude that the meaning of *paidagogos* must include more duties than any one English job title can hold, having something to do with instruction, assistance, and protection. This, then, teaches us both the purpose and limitations of the law.

With the help of all these fresh translations, revisions, and paraphrases, we can better understand the layers of meaning offered in Paul's brilliant use of metaphor.

No single English translation will ever represent the original biblical languages perfectly. Why? In part because the Bible's ancient languages do not function like English. A word in Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic might not have an exact English word to match. And each language constructs sentences differently, which means a variety of words or reconstructed sentences will always be necessary.

This is okay, even good. It keeps us in an inquisitive, learning mode alongside others who are also trying to understand the Bible. It helps us remember that our Bible is not an answer book or instruction manual—it is a collection of sacred Scriptures we are to meditate upon within community.

When translations differ, we can wonder: Did English culture change? Or is something so fascinating and complex happening in the original languages that it can't be resolved with only one English word?

When we notice what appears to be a disagreement between translations, instead of getting argumentative, discouraged, or confused, we can get curious. We can receive an invitation to discover more. We can read the full context, meditate on the biblical text with other people in our community, and read it in as many translations as possible.

## Matthew 10: 5-15 - Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

C T I E Y K C W E S P V M O N G K D G J V O S W S S D G Y T  
L U L O Z V L O M V W I V H O F K I E D X K H Q O L T E U I  
B I R E A R E R O X L E N O B F L H A V I Q L Q O H X O S N  
S Z S E T G A T D A N E N R A A B O I N I I F G I A L O I O  
R A Y T T L N H G L P R W D G T R V D F V E O T Z R T E C P  
P G M C E H S Y N T G L U T O S T I N O J N C L N R Z Q X U  
M K I A O N E C I P V S I V P O S N O M E D F E G O E Z W E  
G T F K R P Y S K M E H V Q A E G L J K D U U R R M R T S M  
V S M R B I P U I Y D A P J A Y Y B A S C I N U T O W T T O  
X F Y N T C T E V C G K L S C P K T A S Q Y P N U G X M E C  
F W Z Z M W M A R V K E E I L P G V B I V C O M E N E A R E  
M H B X V E O H N J X O G B O E L B A R E L O T E R O M O C  
O R Y K J P V K S J D F R Z S I P F X Z Q S F V T J K T L A  
H K Z U P W S T O W N F U N T M I A L C O R P N W X U D P E  
Q Y C X I N A L N J R H T E S L G F F N T P E X S Y I U M P  
Q A U Y X Y D Z A G M G I C H R O C E A N M P W F J D B G N  
T U O L T T E F H D H W X Z E I M V J P E J S S U Z J D L P  
V Z K H C D H A M B N O J T E K A G O G M S I L V E R H B Q  
L S E S R N P M M Q H A M P P E J P D P Y Z B T J P O Y W S  
L R U N W G E N T I L E S G H O Y U R H A L X S Y U A Z K P  
E O M O T B K J Z X Z S L W U E J Q V H P H P Y S I C N G L  
D P E I M L T J E J R P F R T J W Y R Q K Y Y E P D K S G F  
Z Y B T D O V O R E A B N L P L M F T F K O O Z V A R A A V  
F A N C F E D I R C Q E K T B M N R L K U F D V L E W O G G  
E C C U N R D O L F Y M Q N Q U T F B R I C T P O J A O S K  
S J F R E R B I S L T I G N S J S H F S X Y C B Z E E Q W J  
M H F T I A Q R P H A D W P E A C E R E T U R N T O Y O U W  
C S L S L A P R Y U B G D N P J E A C P W M D Y O D L L N G  
O K D N H V F B S M K F E Q F T E D P L M L T J R B B Y L C  
G W W I T I T E E R G H Y G A L I E Z A E C A V Z I E C L I

Find the ***AI bold*** words or phrases from Matthew 10: 5-15

These ***twelve*** Jesus sent out with the following ***instructions***: “Do not take a ***road*** leading to ***gentiles***, and do not enter a ***Samaritan*** town, but go rather to the ***lost sheep*** of the ***house of Israel***. As you go, ***proclaim*** the ***good news***, ‘The ***kingdom of heaven*** has ***come near***.’ ***Cure the sick***; raise the dead; ***cleans***e those with a ***skin disease***; cast out ***demons***.

You ***received*** without ***payment***; give without payment. ***Take no gold***, or ***silver***, or ***copper*** in your belts, ***no bag*** for your ***journey***, or ***two tunics***, or ***sandals***, or a ***staff***, for ***laborers*** deserve their food. Whatever ***town*** or ***village*** you enter, find out who in it is ***worthy***, and ***stay there*** until you leave. As you enter the house, ***greet it***. If the house is worthy, let your ***peace come upon it***, but if it is not worthy, let your ***peace return to you***. If anyone will not welcome you or ***listen*** to your words, ***shake off*** the dust from ***your feet*** as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be ***more tolerable*** for the land of ***Sodom*** and ***Gomorrhah*** on the day of ***judgment*** than for that town.

## Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.

Drop off at the office before the end of the month.

January - Cereal

February - peanut butter

March - canned fruit

April - mac 'n' cheese

May - canned meat / fish

June - canned veggies

July - staples, rice, beans, pasta

August - cereal

September - peanut butter

October - canned veggies

November - canned 'thanksgiving'

December - Pot Luck

# ABUNDANCE ORCHARD VBS

where faith grows and hungry people are

**Pre-registration required - sign up online**

# June 25-29, 2023

**Sunday-Thursday-5:30pm-8:00pm**

**family dinner served each night at 5:30pm**

**[www.cherryvaleumc.com](http://www.cherryvaleumc.com)**

**540-885-0098**

**Cherryvale UMC - 709 Cherry Hill Dr, Staunton**