



**“Satisfied in Him – A Message for the New Year”**  
**By Pastor Bill Alderson – 01/01/2022**

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○ **Psalm 63:1-8**

- O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
  - <sup>2</sup> So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.
  - <sup>3</sup> Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.
  - <sup>4</sup> So I will bless you as long as I live;  
in your name I will lift up my hands.
  - <sup>5</sup> My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,  
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,  
<sup>6</sup> when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;  
<sup>7</sup> for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.
  - <sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.
  - <sup>9</sup> But those who seek to destroy my life  
shall go down into the depths of the earth;  
<sup>10</sup> they shall be given over to the power of the sword;  
they shall be a portion for jackals.
  - <sup>11</sup> But the king shall rejoice in God;  
all who swear by him shall exult,  
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.
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### [CONNECT/INTRO]

Well, it's that time of year again – time for the flood of year-end articles and videos that naturally hit us each year from the news networks, bloggers, YouTube channels, Facebook celebrities -- and even those old fashioned analog communication devices called “Magazines.”

My favorite part of these years-end-reviews is when experts in various fields take a stab at predicting what's to come in year ahead. Some are even so bold as to try to look at 10, 20 years down the road. Occasionally someone well versed in the facts will get it right, but more often than not these predictions are hilariously off the point.

A few examples:

- **In 1903**, the president of the Michigan Savings bank advised Henry Ford's lawyer not to invest in the Ford Motor Company because “The horse is here to stay, but the automobile is only a novelty, a fad...”
- **In 1916**, Charlie Chaplin – the famed actor, director and studio founder – said, “The cinema is little more than a fad. It's canned drama. What audiences really want to see is flesh-and-blood on stage.”
- **In 1934**, Darryl Zanuck, movie producer for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, said, “Television won't last because people will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night.”
- **In 1966**, Time Magazine ran with the prediction that “Remote shopping, while entirely feasible, will flop, because women like to get out of the house, like to handle the merchandise, like to be able to change their minds.”
- **In 1977**, Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corporation, said “There is no reason for an individual to have a computer in his home.”
- **In 1995**, Clifford Stoll, in a Newsweek article entitled “The Internet? Bah!” said, “The truth is no online database will replace your daily newspaper...”
- **In 2007**, Steve Ballmer, Microsoft CEO, said, “*There's no chance that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share.*”
- **And my favorite prediction** – in 1991, Pleasant View High School math teacher and all-around great lady Robin James told me, personally, “Billy, you can't use your computer to do your math homework. You can't carry your computer around with you everywhere you go to solve math problems...”
  - For those of you not familiar with circa 1991 computers, that's the Commodore 64
    - That big box to the left of the CRT screen is not the computer
    - That's disk drive.  
Yes, that's 170 Kilobytes of beautiful floppy-drive storage right there.



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So the message here is clear: we humans are pretty bad at predicting the future.

- Yes, we can make educated guesses with the information available to us, and sometimes those hit the mark, but, As the Monty Python boys like to say, **“Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition.”**
- Or how about **“Nobody expects a global pandemic.”**
- **I’m going to go out on a limb, though, and make two predictions for this upcoming year that I do feel pretty confident in:**
  - Humanity needs a Savior.
  - We can trust in the Sovereignty of God.
- **This time last year I stood and asked us all to make a resolution together:**
  - “Resolved to cultivate a heart of gratitude.”
    - How do you think you we did with that?
      - I don’t ask that question to condemn, but to reflect
  - I wonder how we’ll do this year?
    - Will we be as busy?
    - Will we make any better use of our time?
    - In 362 days, when this year is over, will we be **looking back** with *joy*, or with *regret*?
    - Will we be looking at **the future** with anticipation, or with dread?
  - I’m proposing a new resolution for 2023
    - **“Resolved to find in God my Greatest Satisfaction.”**
    - To be satisfied in Him

### **[MAIN POINT]**

- The theologian John Piper once said:  
***“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”***
  - Do you agree with this statement?



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- Let’s first look at what it means to “glorify God.” What exactly does this mean for us today? What do we mean when we say the “glory of God”?
- The glory of God is His manifest work, the way He represents His perfect character through His activity.
  - It also refers to His excellent reputation and is given as one of the reasons we are to praise His name.
  - Another sense of the word is the inherent beauty of God, the unbearable brightness and beauty of His being as He radiates His own attributes and characteristics for all to witness.
- The scriptures speak of humanity as having “fallen short” of God’s glory (Romans 3:23) because we have rejected the purpose for which God created – to glorify Him.
  - This should be our goal in life as well – to glorify God.
  - All of creation was created to glorify God.
    - This world exists to reflect the glory of God.
    - God did not create the world to make himself happy. He is already perfectly content within Himself.
    - He created this world to make His name known.
  - We were created to glorify God. And how are we to glorify God?
  - One of the primary ways is **to seek satisfaction in Him.**
- Similarly, C.S. Lewis writes:

*“Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition, when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”*

  - The problem here is that the child never really gets the point! The child is completely content with the mud pies. He is content to be in a slum rather than at the sea. Is this not the same with us when we continue to be content with our sin?
  - We cherish things other than God. There are many secondary things in life that are good to find pleasure in. A good wife, a nice car, a home, a great job, etc.
    - All these things are good, when put in the proper perspective. But when we take these things and delight in them more than we delight in God, we create idols.



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- They begin to demand our time and attention and take our attention away from God.
  - As an example, I love Sci-Fi and Fantasy movies, books, shows. I love binge-watching a show on a weekend or during vacation. But the truth is, when it steals my joy away from my relationship with God, I need to confess it! The lie of sin is that it will completely satisfy us.
  - The **LIE** of sin is that it *will provide for us only what God Himself will provide.*
  - The **TRUTH** is that only God satisfy us completely.
- So back to Piper’s quote and our main point for the day,
    - **“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”**
  - But *HOW?*
  - How do we do this?
  - To dig into that question, let’s start by reading our key verse for today. If you would please open your bibles to **Psalm 63** with me.
    - **Psalm 63:1-8**
      - O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
      - <sup>2</sup>So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.
      - <sup>3</sup>Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.
      - <sup>4</sup>So I will bless you as long as I live;  
in your name I will lift up my hands.
      - <sup>5</sup>My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,  
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
      - <sup>6</sup>when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;



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<sup>7</sup> for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

<sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

- <sup>9</sup> But those who seek to destroy my life  
shall go down into the depths of the earth;  
<sup>10</sup> they shall be given over to the power of the sword;  
they shall be a portion for jackals.  
<sup>11</sup> But the king shall rejoice in God;  
all who swear by him shall exult,  
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

- Now it's important for us to know the **background** of Psalm 63 in order for us to understand it's impact.
- If you've been following along with us in the bible reading plan, earlier in December we read through **Second Samuel**. In it we read that,
  - David was in the midst of severe persecution from his son, Absalom, who desired to be king.
  - But there was one problem, you see, **David was already king**.
  - So Absalom instigates a revolt against him.
  - In 2 Samuel 15:13, we learn that  
“The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom.”
  - King David fled eastward from Jerusalem through the Judean Desert, most likely at the end of the summer (**2 Sam. 16:1**).
  - David escaped to the Levitical city of Mahanaim (May Ha Nay Um), in the friendlier region of Gilead on the other side of the Jordan River (**2 Sam. 17:24**).
  - As we examine this psalm, we will see David's desire to worship the Lord even though he had been cut off from access to the sanctuary in Jerusalem. He uses three metaphors from his own personal experience to convey this desire and how God might bring it to pass:
    1. Thirsting for the Lord in the wilderness,
    2. Satisfaction after a gourmet banquet in the sanctuary, and
    3. Following the Lord as his Shepherd and trusting in His protection so he can return to the sanctuary and worship the Lord.



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- Let’s go ahead and break down this Psalm and dig deeper into the ways in which David seeks to be Satisfied in God.

### [KEY POINTS]

- **First we see David’s Declaration of Faith and His Purpose in Life.**
  - David begins this psalm with a declaration of faith:
    - **O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;**
  - David begins by declaring his faith in the Lord as his personal God.
  - For David, God was not an idol of gold, silver, wood, or stone. He was the **living God** who intimately involved in David’s life.
  - By this we see that David had a personal relationship with the Lord.
    - Today, a person can have the same personal relationship with the Lord through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - Our personal relationship with the living God begins by realizing that we are sinners because we have offended a holy God.
    - Our sin separates us from God.
    - Yet God reached down to His creatures by sending His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to earth to live a perfect life, not sinning once, and then dying on the cross in order to be the Perfect Sacrifice to pay for all our sins.
    - The Lord Jesus did the hard part to reconcile us to God – He died.
    - But three days later, He was bodily resurrected from the dead to demonstrate that all sin had been paid for, Satan had been defeated, and death had been conquered.
    - Now He offers each of us salvation as a free gift, which one can receive by simply putting one’s faith in the Lord Jesus and trusting Him alone for salvation.
    - When a person puts his or her trust in Christ alone, he or she is born into God’s family and *becomes a child of God*.
  - In this verse we also see David’s purpose and priority in life.
    - He says: **“earnestly I seek you”**
    - The phrase translated “early will I seek You” in the King James Version is rendered differently in most modern translations. For example: “Earnestly I seek you” (NIV, ESV), “I eagerly seek you” (CSB), and “I earnestly search for you” (NLT). In the original Hebrew, the concept of seeking in Psalm 63:1 refers to diligent,



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wholehearted searching that involves a strong desire focused on developing a relationship with the desired object. Seeking the Lord early in the morning may result from our eager, earnest longing for fellowship with God, but there is no biblical requirement for *when* we must pursue Him.

- **Second, David’s Soul Is Thirsting for God in the Wilderness. 63:1b-4**

- In the first stanza, David sings

- **my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

- **<sup>2</sup>So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.**

- **<sup>3</sup>Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.**

- **<sup>4</sup>So I will bless you as long as I live;  
in your name I will lift up my hands.**

- Here David describes his longing for the presence of the Lord in His sanctuary.

- The Judean Desert is depicted as a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. David, when he was a shepherd in the Judean Desert, knew where all the springs and waterholes were.

- In the summertime, even when it is extremely dry, there is water in the desert. It may be scarce, but there is water nonetheless.

- Yet this language expresses the fact that David is totally cut off from the Lord and His sanctuary in Jerusalem.

- The people with David, however, were hungry, weary, and thirsty when they got to Mahanaim (May Ha Nay Im) (2 Samuel 17:29).

- In the second verse, David reminisces about the power and glory of God in the sanctuary.

- Early in his reign, after he had conquered Jerusalem, David brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem from Kiryat Jearim (2 Samuel 6:12-23) and placed it in a tent structure (2 Samuel. 7:2, 6).

- He had the desire to build a house for the Lord, but was not allowed to build it because he was a man of war and had blood on his hands (1 Chron. 22:8; 28:3).

- But still, God made a covenant with David that stated that his son would build a house for the Lord and that one of his sons would sit upon the throne of David forever and ever (2 Samuel 7:12-16).





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- After this unconditional covenant was made, David went into the tent and sat before the Lord and prayed (2 Samuel 7:18-29). More than likely, David saw the Ark of the Covenant, God’s strength and glory, on this occasion.
- When David fled from Absalom, the Levites brought the Ark of the Covenant out of Jerusalem.
  - David insisted that they take it back. He said to Zadok in 2 Samuel 15:25-26: “Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place. <sup>26</sup> But if he says, ‘I have no pleasure in you,’ behold, here I am, let him do to me what seems good to him.”
  - David resigned his fate to the Lord but was fully confident in His sovereignty and loving kindness.
  - In verse three, David declares that the LORD’s “**steadfast love is better than life**”
  - The Hebrew word for *Steadfast Love* is *hesed* and it has a powerful word picture associated with it.
    - Like a stork (*hesedu*) that lovingly watches over and guards its young so the Lord is lovingly loyal to the covenants that He made with His people Israel.
    - He is faithful to His people, even when they are not faithful to Him. He watches over His people, provides for them, and protects them because He made unconditional covenants with Abraham and David.
    - Because he understood this important attribute of God, David said that, even with parched lips, he would praise the Lord. He blessed the Lord by lifting up his hands and would do this **for the rest of his life**.
- **Third, David’s Soul Is Satisfied in the Lord as after a Gourmet Banquet. 63:5-7**
  - In the second stanza, David sings:
    - <sup>5</sup> My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,  
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
    - <sup>6</sup> when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
    - <sup>7</sup> for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.
  - Although David was thirsty because of the dryness of the wilderness, he was satisfied and content because his confidence was in the Lord and His promises.
    - As the king lay awake that night contemplating the “Steadfast Love” of the Lord, he was reminded of the sacrifices that were offered in the sanctuary. He said he



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was satisfied as with “fat and rich food,” in other words, the best and richest food.

- As David lay awake that night in the Plains of the Wilderness (2 Samuel 17:16) near Jericho, he was trying to sort out the day’s events.
  - He was thankful to the Lord for His help in getting his family and followers out of Jerusalem before Absalom’s army was able to approach the city and do any harm to it.
  - He remembered the goodness of God and meditated on the Lord Himself.
    - The word *meditate* is the same word used in Psalm 1:2:
      - “but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.”
    - It is in the Torah (which covers Genesis to Deuteronomy) that the Lord and His ways are revealed.
      - The word *meditate* is a pastoral word that David gleaned from observing his sheep. Sheep have four stomachs.
      - The sheep would eat the grass and flowers in the fields, and the foliage would go down into one stomach.
      - Later, while the sheep was resting in the shade, it would regurgitate, *which is the same word that is translated meditate*, the foliage, chew it over again, and send it back down to another stomach.
- I am sure David had large portions of the Torah memorized so that at night he could bring to mind those passages that spoke of the Lord and apply them to his present situation.
  - God is an avenging God.
    - Deuteronomy 32:35 and later repeated in Romans 12:19
      - “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord”
    - In 2 Samuel 15:13, when David heard that Ahithophel was conspiring with Absalom, David prayed:
      - “O Lord, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.”
- David rejoices in the shadow of God’s wings.
  - The Lord Jesus uses a similar illustration in **Matt. 23:37**, where he says,
    - *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!*
- Twice in this stanza we see David praise the Lord with rejoicing in spite of his current terrible circumstances.



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- The Lord Jesus might have had this psalm and David’s circumstances in mind when He instructed his disciples in Matthew 5:11-12:
  - Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (David was a prophet as stated in Acts 2:30)
- This was the same lesson that James the son of Zebedee recounted in the opening verses of his epistle:
  - “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,”
- **Fourth, David’s Soul Follows His Shepherd as a Defenseless Lamb. 63:8-10**
  - In the third stanza, David sings:
    - <sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.
    - <sup>9</sup> But those who seek to destroy my life  
shall go down into the depths of the earth;  
<sup>10</sup> they shall be given over to the power of the sword;  
they shall be a portion for jackals.
  - David turns to his younger days for the image of a defenseless lamb following close by its shepherd for protection – the right hand of God is always the hand of power and protection.
    - David was advised by his commanders to stay within the walls of Anaim (May Ha Nay Um) while they went out to fight Absalom’s army.
    - The revolt ended with the slaughter of twenty thousand Israelites in the woods of Ephraim and the death of Absalom at the hands of Joab (2 Sam. 18:1-18, 28).
    - The dead went into the “lower parts of the earth,” another description of *Sheol*, the place of the departed spirits (Luke 16:19-31; *Hades* is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew *Sheol*).
    - The bodies of the dead were eaten by scavengers. *Jackals* are the vacuum cleaners, or scavengers, of the desert. On a number of occasions as he wandered in the Judean Desert, David would have seen dead animals. Later, when he walked past the same place, the animal carcass would be gone. Jackals had been there and cleaned up the mess, bones and all.



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- is saying that his enemies would not be afforded a proper burial with their families, as was the Israelite custom and practice.
  - Absalom’s body, as we read in 2 Samuel 18:17, was placed in a pit in the forest of Ephraim and covered with a huge pile of rocks.
  - This was to keep the jackals away, **but it also symbolized the death of a rebellious son** who should have by all rights been stoned to death (according to Deuteronomy 21:18-21).
- **Fifth, David’s Declaration of Praise because His Critics Are Silenced. 63:11**
    - David concludes this psalm by singing:
      - **“But the king shall rejoice in God;  
all who swear by him shall exult,  
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.**
    - David speaks of himself in the third person here as “the king.”
    - His victory, however, was bittersweet.
      - The revolt had been suppressed, but his son was dead.
      - On a personal level, David mourned the death of his son, which we see in 2 Samuel 18:33-19:7.
      - Yet he says in this psalm that, because the revolt was over, the king rejoiced.

### [APPLICATION]

- When we think of our main point today, **“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”** There are several lessons that we can learn from this psalm that should encourage us in our daily walk with the Lord.
  1. **Spending time with the Lord**
    - Both David and the Lord Jesus set apart the early morning hours for prayer and communion with the Father.
    - We should follow their example and set apart a portion of our day for Bible reading and prayer.
    - If you’ve struggled in the past with regular bible reading, I want to encourage you again to follow along with us in the To The Word bible reading plan.
  2. **Recognize God’s Providence**



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- Providence refers to God’s continuing work and involvement in His creation. This includes, in various degrees, God’s preservation of the created order, His governance, and His care for His people (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Gen. 8:21-22).
- As Christians, we believe the world, and even the cosmos itself, is contingent upon God, incapable of existing apart from Him.
- As Christians we also believe in God’s personal and direct intervention in the world—as opposed to a hands-off approach to creation—that affects not only the natural order but also the individuals and events within human history.
- In the Psalm, David was confident that those who sought his life would have a reversal of fortune and God would judge them.
- This lesson is probably the most difficult to learn because the reality is we have no control over our future.
- David illustrates for us the importance of remembering God’s providence during times of trial and duress.
  - **James 1:12**  
*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.*

### 3. Trust in God

- The third lesson we can learn from this psalm is that David resigned his fate to a sovereign God who was in control of the affairs of history.
- He was content with whatever the Lord had in store for his future; whether he lived or died he would be content because the **“Steadfast Love”** of the Lord was better than life. He knew that if he died, he would be with the Lord forever.
- The Apostle Paul had the same attitude. When he wrote to the Philippian believers, he said: “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

### 4. Rejoice in the Lord

- The third lesson we can learn from this psalm is that David **rejoiced in the Lord** in spite of his terrible circumstances.
- This he could do because he remembered the Lord and meditated on Him and His ways.
- Our **contentment and joy** is based on Christ’s unfailing, steadfast Love and mercy toward us and is not based on our circumstances.



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- The Lord Jesus is always faithful to us and can be trusted to get us through our difficult circumstances.
- Therefore we can live joyfully and triumphantly in the midst of unpleasant circumstances.
- We are reminded of the words of the Lord Jesus when He said in **Matthew 5:12**:
  - Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **5. Abide In Jesus**

- The final and probably most important lesson for the believer today is simply to rest in the Lord Jesus.
  - Refreshment and satisfaction for the soul are found only in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Word of God.
  - It is only when we are content and refreshed that we can come together corporately to truly worship and sing praises to the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Our sole focus must be on Him.
  - **John 15:4-5**  
Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

### **[CLOSING]**

Please be tremendously encouraged, Christian: Christ is building his church, and no one can stop Him.

- His church will grow
- His people will endure
- all His good purposes will come to perfect realization.

I invite you to join me in being committed to seeking our satisfaction in the Lord in 2023.

**“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”**

**In closing, I want to leave you with four things:**



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- In our call to spread The Gospel Let us **encourage one-another towards Hope**
  - Because we have confidence that good things are still to come
- Let us **encourage one-another towards Love**
  - Because God loves sinners first, rescuing us from our condemnation
- Let us **encourage one-another towards Joy**
  - Because it is God’s intent that we should find Joy though the Son.
- Let us **encourage one-another towards Peace**
  - Because Jesus came and made a way for there to be peace between God and man and between man and man.

**[PRAYER]**

**[COMMUNION]**

**[BENEDICTION]**

**Colossians 2:6-7**

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.