

A Publication of the Port Orchard Church of Christ

February 11, 2024

The Juniper Tree

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

1 Kings 18 records the great contest Elijah had with the prophets of Baal to prove who the true God really was. The prophets of Baal lost that contest and at the word of Elijah were killed. Now, 1 Kings 19, Jezebel sends word to Elijah that she is going to make his life like one of them; Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. Now, we find Elijah sitting under a juniper tree overwhelmed with discouragement and frustration. He is tired, he is weary, sad, lonely and feeling so sorry for himself over a situation that seems to him to be hopeless and he pleads for the Lord to take his life. But the Lord had other plans for Elijah (vs. 11-21).

The words I now write are simply the expression of what I feel in my heart on this day. I pray these words will have two results: First, that God will be honored and glorified and secondly that all who read them will be strengthened in their faith and trust in God.

I sometimes find myself wondering if we really realize how quickly our life can change. When we awake each morning, we have no guarantee that all is going to be well with us. In just a twinkling of the eye, our world can come crashing down around us

What man or woman is there among us who cannot at some time in their life identify themselves with Elijah and be tempted to sit under that juniper tree? How many times have we, like Elijah, become so troubled that we felt overwhelmed with discouragement and frustration feeling as if we were in a hopeless situation? How many times have we, if not literally, at least mentally cried out, Why me? Why me? Why this particular trial, burden, sickness or even death of one we loved dearly?

Will we ever have hearts heavy with sadness? Will we ever feel fear and frustration? Will we ever become tired and weary? Will we ever be tempted to sit under that juniper tree? The answer is a resounding yes! But as a faithful child of God, we do not have to sit under that tree for you see, we have an anchor for our soul that can and will keep us secure under any and all conditions (Hebrews 6:19). Hope is the anchor of our soul and that hope is in Jesus Christ. When a ship drops its anchor into the water, the anchor disappears but it is connected to the ship with a strong chain that keeps the ship in place when the wind and waves beat against it. In the same way Jesus is our anchor and though he is unseen, we are connected to him at all times by the strongest chain of all, love (Rom. 8:28-29). He is our shield and defender, his presence is ours and we can say with the utmost confidence, "The Lord is my helper" (Psalms 33:20, Prov. 30:5, Heb. 13:5-6, Heb. 4:16, Phil. 4:6-7).

With the Lord as our helper we can sing from the heart, "Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on his gentle breast, There by His love o'er shaded, Sweetly my soul shall rest." Yes, over the course of our life we will be tempted many times to sit under that juniper tree but hear me my friends, if we give in to that temptation, it will be because we choose to do so.

- Charles Hicks

Our Prayer List

- Pray for Neda Herbert, who is receiving heart treatment.
- Nancy Armenta's brother-in-law Ken, whom we have been praying for, passed away. Please keep his wife Ida and the family in your prayers.
- Pray for Alyssa our new Sister in Christ.
- Continue pray for to Michael and his medical issues. Please pray for him to have faith and trust in abundance in his new adventure with God.
- Praise God that Bittany Pringle is home from the hospital. She is feeling better, but still needs healing, so continue to pray for her.
- Pray for Peggy Hall's mother Ruth, who is out of ICU and hopes to be released by Friday. Peggy is still quarantined at her mother's house. Pray for healing for both.
- Pray for all those who are ill, traveling and struggling.
- There are a lot of illnesses currently in our area. Pray for quick healing for all those who are suffering.
- Pray for all those suffering in the cold weather. Pray for safety for all during the inclement weather.
- Welcome our new elders; Gary Chasteen, Darrell Fry, Bob McDaniel, Brad Orser, Dave Snypp & Greg Warner. Pray daily for them as they take on this leadership role. Pray also for their wives and families.
- Pray for our future deacons and their families.
- Pray also for Trent as he continues to preach the Word to us.
- Pray for all of the ministries in this congregation and those who work so hard for their success.
- Pray for our church, that God will lead in the direction He has planned for us.
- Pray for our children and their classes and groups.



POCOC Web Site (<http://pococ.weebly.com/>)

- To find our most current Bulletin, Order of Worship, & Worship Leader Schedule, Go to <http://pococ.weebly.com/> then click on Bulletins & Newsletters.
- Current Event Calendar - Click on News & Events.
- Live stream of worship services on YouTube Channel - Previous video recordings, too: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ then click on the desired video.



Please subscribe to be notified when new videos post or when we go live.

Sunday Worship February 11, 2023 (10:30 am – 12:00 – noon) (Children's church this week. – Dismissed after communion to go downstairs) Watch live-stream or after our worship time: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ					
January Servers – Brian Bungart Elijah Herbert Dan Gross Terry Bratcher					
Speaker: Trent Herbert	Singing Levi Herbert	Scripture: Trent Herbert	Prayer: Bob McDaniel	Communion: Darrell Fry	Offering: Darrell Fry
January Servers – Brian Bungart Elijah Herbert Dan Gross Terry Bratcher					
9:30 am Adult Class: Auditorium Led by Trent Herbert			Children Class: Downstairs Two Classes: children and pre-teen		
Call Laura Fry or the Church Office (360-876-2604) for Zoom Meeting ID					
Men's Fellowship Downstairs Fellowship Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am			Ladies in the Word Upstairs Overflow Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am		
Bible Class & Prayer Colossians (in person or on Zoom) Wednesdays: 5:00 - 6:00 pm			Ladies Prayer Group LaDonna's home – 10:00 am		
Port Orchard Church of Christ 4135 Carr Lane SE Port Orchard, WA 98366 360-876-2604 - churchpococ@gmail.com			February 4, 2024 - Tithes & Offerings – \$ 5,071.00 If you have any questions, please give me a call. God bless you. Gary Chasteen (cell) 360-731-4104		

Communion and Tithes & Offerings

The bread and fruit of the vine will be served during our communion time. You also have the option to pick up your communion supplies as you enter the auditorium. It contains both the juice and the bread.

There are also a few options for giving your tithes & offerings:

- 1) The collection box is in the foyer at the entrance to the auditorium.
- 2) Online bill-pay with your bank or credit union. Your bank will mail your check for you.
- 3) Mail your tithe/offering check directly to the Church address below. We have a lock mailbox.

Happy Birthday!

February 2024: Christopher Hill – 7, DeLoris Lawler – 9, Fuzzy Volpitta – 12, John Casely – 28.

March 2024: Brad Orser – 12, Troy Hill – 15, Darrell Fry – 25, Roger Taylor – 31.

Hero of Israel (Surely a King)

Words & Music by Anthony Lancaster

Surely a king would know His best should be worn
Clothed that His people might receive Him well
Yet low, wrapped in suffering is this one adorned
As the Hero, Hero of Israel

Surely a king in lavish grandeur would live
Placed on a high and awesome throne to dwell
But here, not a place to lay his head would he give
To the Hero, Hero of Israel

These weary heavy laden are your misfit kingdom
No strength in virtue do we bring
(We need your Spirit in us.)
But we make straight the way for you to bear our shame
In a humble coronation as our king

Surely a king would close his heart to a foe
Bear arms against them with his name upheld
But arms, nailed and open, left the full heart exposed
In the Hero, Hero of Israel

These weary, heavy laden are your misfit kingdom
No strength in virtue do we bring
(We need your Spirit in us.)
But we make straight the way for you to bear our shame
In a humble coronation as our king

Surely a cross would signal helpless defeat
Christ, king rejected, lifted high, you fell
But all at the cross's foot now fall at the feet
Of the Hero, Hero of Israel

You're the Hero, Hero of Israel



CLICK THIS LINK



[Hero of Israel](#)

Hero of Israel (Surely a King)

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