



The Tall Spire

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019



ISAIAH: HOPE FOR TODAY'S EXILES



We have been studying the Prophet Isaiah since September and will continue on through November. We have looked at key passages that instill a sense of hope in the face of the Israelite despair at being taken into exile. The Babylonians had destroyed their temple, captured their king, and destroyed their city. Today, we too face a metaphorical exile of sorts with severe feelings of dislocation from cultural identity and disconnection from one another is more real despite the hyper technological connections found within our phones and social media. Studies show that Americans are literally dying of loneliness. And yet, out of the darkest of nights, hope remains possible with God! Then suddenly, in the midst of a desolate refugee camp of despair, far from home in a foreign land, Isaiah speaks: *a change is finally going to come! They are not forgotten; in fact the opposite is true – the dawn of a new day is breaking!*

Isaiah helped the Hebrew people to imagine reality differently, the possibility of a different world, a world that God has waiting for us! Jesus embraced this dream of a new reality. I am inspired to image the Body of Christ that is compassionate to the world's forgotten and left behind. Whether that's a dozen refugees on a rubber boat in the Mediterranean, a scared and

lonely child separated from her family at our southern border, hungry kids in our community, a family huddled in a Syrian basement praying to survive another night ... *"For unto them a child is born, unto them a son is given."* (Isaiah 9:6). That's the Gospel. That's the dream God has for our world. That calls to my mind the hopeful song, *A Million Dreams*, from the musical, *The Greatest Showman* –

I close my eyes and I can see
The world that's waiting up for me
That I call my own
Through the dark, through the door
Through where no one's been before
But it feels like home

They can say, they can say it all sounds crazy
They can say, they can say I've lost my mind
I don't care, I don't care, so call me crazy
We can live in a world that we design

'Cause every night I lie in bed
The brightest colors fill my head
A million dreams are keeping me awake
I think of what the world could be
A vision of the one I see
A million dreams is all its gonna take
A million dreams for the world
we're gonna make

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Sunday Worship @ 10:30am

Misión Bautista Worship @ 12:30pm

Adult Forum @ 9:30am

Church Office Hours
Monday – Thursday 9am to 2:30pm
Friday 9am to 1pm

Rev. Tim Dalton, Senior Pastor
Matthew Perez, Minister of Music

Lucia Gold, Office Manager

Affiliated with American Baptist
Churches of Metropolitan NY
The American Baptist Churches USA
www.abc-usa.org

LOOK FOR THE TALL SPIRE
at Bryant Avenue and North Street
adjacent to White Plains High School

There's a house we can build
Every room inside is filled
With things from far away
The special things I compile
Each one there to make you smile
On a rainy day

They can...

However big, however small
Let me be a part of it all
Share your dreams with me
You may be right, you may be wrong
But say that you're bringing me along
To the world you see
To the world I close my eyes to see, I close my eyes to see!

(by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul)

Do you see the world that Isaiah and Jesus shared? Pray that you might be open to the realities of the undying dawn of God's Kingdom to enter our world through Christ in you! God has a beautiful vision "for the world were gonna make!"

Pastor Tim

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND GOD'S LOVE

The season of Advent is upon us! This is one of my favorite times of the year. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the Christmas and the New Year celebrations, I find it essential to take time to focus on the peaceful, joy-bringing themes of this season. One of the ways we do this is to celebrate with the lighting of Advent candles each week.

Different churches may assign slightly different meanings to these candles, but the general theme of the 4 candles is: Hope–Peace–Joy–Love (lit week to week in that order). I love the weekly progression of these themes as we wait for Christmas Day. I think it is because we know that, as people of faith, our goal is to live and flourish daily in God's love. Ultimately, love is the point of Advent and the deep meaning of our lives as God's children. It is the greatest commandment: to love God and to love each other. However, I don't believe we can get to this place without first being deeply conscious of the hope and peace that is offered to us by the Creator.

Many of us are familiar with the well known verse: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11 NKJV). I don't believe I can live in an attitude of joy and love without being first assured of the peace and hope that are afforded to my spiritual and physical life through a relationship with God. I hope that this holiday season brings you a profound sense of the peace that God wants to give you and the hope that is available to us all through faith. May these truths envelop us and inspire us to experience the joyful love that God wants to radiate in and around us all. Happy Holidays.

Kate Wiswell, Lead Singer



Special Thanks to Pat Ehresmann

As many of you are aware, Pat Ehresmann will retire as our Church Treasurer at the end of 2019. Pat has given her dedicated service and tirelessly handled all of the financial responsibilities for the church with grace and humility, and has been a servant of the Lord for over 10 years, which is of unmeasurable value to First Baptist Church of White Plains.

We owe her our gratitude and thanks for all that she has done in this role as well as being a substantial contributor over the years to many special projects the church has needed financed.

Pat has given her time on weekdays, weekends and holidays and worked far into the night taking care of the payroll, contributions and donations, accounts receivables, accounts payables, allocations to missions, doing taxes and making investments as well as reports each month for the board meetings. You might say she has been the financial watch dog for the church, a woman who is humble, soft spoken, a good listener and trustworthy to carry out this huge responsibility.

She did all of this as a volunteer, giving of her time and efforts to benefit the church. She is smart, self-taught and meticulous about figures, numbers and accountability.

Pat will be missed, as not only is she to be admired, but she is a good confidant and friend. She is looking forward to her outside activities such as Tai Chi and involvement in the LIRIC Courses at Iona, courses designed for retirees who wish to take classes, see films and listen to lectures, read plays, learn about world affairs and political strategies. These classes are intellectually stimulating and a great social outlet for all retirees.

We thank Pat with all our hearts and wish her happiness and good health in her retirement.

All are welcome to join us in honoring Pat at a Special Luncheon

December 8th | The Wilson House | 11:30am

**There will be a basket for greeting cards
of Thank You Notes and Well Wishes**

Photo Directory!

Please sign up for to have your family's photo taken for our shared photo directory with our sister congregation, Iglesia: Mision Bautista de Westchester. Photos are being taken before and after our worship services on:

- Sunday, November 10
- Sunday, November 17
- Sunday, November 24
- Sunday, December 1

You can also purchase family portraits just in time for Christmas!
Don't delay! Sign up now!



Worshiping Together

In the last two months of the year, we will be worshiping with Mision Bautista twice:

Sunday, November 24 @ 11:00 AM
Sunday, December 22 @ 11:00 AM

In November, we will share a Thanksgiving pot luck meal together and in December, we will share a service where our children tell the story of Christ coming to our world! This service will be followed by a shared meal. Don't miss these services of celebrating the season together!

Pledge Support

We are currently in the process of making a church budget for 2020. In order to be a "church on the move" responding to the needs of this moment, we need your pledge support. If you haven't pledged before, but you've discovered that this fellowship is meaningful to you, please consider making a commitment in any amount. Pledging of your financial resources is a generous expression of faith that says our God can be trusted. If you believe this, join our Pledge Circle! This is comprised of members and friends of First Baptist that are taking a step in faith and helping move us closer to becoming faithful stewards of the abundant gifts of God – *"thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life THAT REALLY IS LIFE."* (1 Timothy 6:19)

White Plains Thanksgiving Service

Mark your calendars! We will be hosting the White Plains City-Wide Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26, at 7:00 PM. It will be an evening where we can gather as a city and express our thanks to God for our lives and hopes for our future as a city. Special music will be provided by the First Baptist Choir and the Peace Ensemble, which is comprised of clergy musicians from our area. It promises to be a blessing for all who come!

Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of Advent by our fun Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday night, December 7th at 6:00 PM! Come and sing carols, enjoy light refreshments and help us countdown to the lighting of our Christmas Tree!

Advent Devotional

We are so pleased to announce our first ever Advent Devotional! In the Church calendar, Advent is a time of spiritual waiting and preparation for Christ to arrive in our world.

Our devotional will be comprised of reflections written by members of First Baptist and Mision Bautista to aide us and our families as we journey together through the sacred time together.

You will be inspired and illuminated by these insights in how Jesus's story is our hope, peace, joy, and love. It will be available by the end of November. Please notify the church office if you would like for us to send you a PDF copy.

