

## February 1 Worship

Readers- Dan, Maddie, Cassie Hopkins

### Announcements/Joys

**Time Of Quiet Meditation-** *“The promises of the Lord are promises that are pure, silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.”* Psalm 12:6

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**Opening Scripture-** Psalm 15(page 470-471)

**Opening Chorus-** 300- Breathe On Me Breath Of God

### Responsive Call To Worship-

Leader: The world finds no proof of God.

**People: But the heavens tell of God’s glory.**

Leader: God’s message is foolishness to the world.

**People: But God’s folly trumps human wisdom.**

Leader: The freedom of the world brings us death.

**People: But obedience to God’s ways brings life.**

Leader: We gather in the name of Christ crucified.

**People: The Word made flesh brings life to God’s people!**

**Hymn of Praise-** 332- God Of Grace And God Of Glory

**Unison Prayer/Lord's Prayer-** Oh God, Our teacher, example, companion, You have shown us what is good, and call us to remember that what you require is not repayment of debt or settling the score, but obedience. Show us, God When to do justice, how to love kindness, and where to walk, humbly, with You. We pray as Jesus taught, saying...*Lord's Prayer...*

*“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*

**Gloria Patri-** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end.  
Amen, Amen.

**Old Testament Scripture-** Micah 6:1-2(page 805)

## **Special Music-**

**Gospel Scripture-** Matthew 5:1-12(page 837-838)

**Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn-** 601- Standing On The Promises

**New Testament Scripture-** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31(page 991-992)

### **Message**

#### *“Promises, Promises”*

How much value do we place on promises? When someone makes a promise, do you just roll your eyes and think; “Sure, that's going to happen.” How many promises have been made to you that were broken? How many promises have you made that you never kept? Making a promise is something that seems to have lost its importance in today's society. It is important to understand the power and significance of our words in a world where promises are often broken and words lose their meaning. Our ability to make and keep promises defines our integrity and profoundly impacts our personal and professional relationships. Promises play a crucial role in our daily interactions. Whether a simple agreement or a more significant commitment, promises shape our relationships, establish trust, and maintain social order. When we promise something, we create a certain level of expectation in others. But if we keep our promise, we build trust and strengthen our relationships with others. Promises are not mere empty words; they hold immense power. They have the potential to uplift, inspire, and motivate. When we make promises, we give others a reason to believe in us. On the other hand, breaking promises can devastate relationships, eroding trust and causing emotional pain. Recognizing the importance of promises is the first step towards harnessing their power and positively impacting our lives.

There was a time when a hand shake and simply giving your word was enough to ratify a contract. I remember when I was talking with a man here in town about cutting and baling the hay on his property. We had negotiated the terms and I asked him if he wanted a written contract to seal the deal. He asked me a simple question. “Isn't your word, my word, and a handshake good enough for you?” Today, a handshake and your word means absolutely nothing. I don't know when that changed, but I believe that something has been lost when it comes to truth and honesty when dealing with others.

When we keep our promises, we're not just ticking off a task on our to-do list; we're nurturing trust, respect, and integrity in our relationships. It sounds simple, yet in our fast-paced world, the true art of keeping a promise seems to be fading. But what if I told you that mastering this art could be the secret to stronger relationships, a rock-solid reputation, and even personal growth? Let's uncover how something as small as a promise can lead to significant changes in our lives. Imagine you're lending a book to a friend, and they promise to return it next week. When they do, you're more likely to lend them another book in the future. This simple act of keeping a promise builds trust. Trust is like a bridge between two people, and every kept promise is a strong brick in that bridge. Without these bricks, the bridge weakens and may eventually collapse. Why does trust matter:

1. It's the foundation of any strong relationship, whether with friends, family, or partners.
2. Trust makes us feel safe and secure, allowing us to open up and share our lives.
3. It's earned over time through consistent actions and kept promises.

In any kind of relationship, trust is essential. It lets us rely on others, knowing they won't let us down. Keeping promises shows you respect the trust someone has placed in you, reinforcing the bond between you.

Making a promise is committing yourself and guaranteeing that you will perform whatever it is that you are saying you will do. Why is it that the first thing that we do after we make a promise is to attempt to find a way out. It becomes so easy to say I really didn't mean exactly what you think I said I would do. We waffle around and try to weasel our way around it. It won't take long before people will start doubting you. Trust doesn't come easy if you are not trustworthy. The truth is, that in this world today, trustworthy people are getting harder and harder to find.

There is someone who has a reputation of making and keeping every promise He ever made. We call Him God, or Yahweh or any of a multitude of names. Can anyone here tell me about a promise that God broke? We sang a hymn a few minutes ago called "Standing On The Promises." Turn in your hymnal to #601 and let's look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse; "Standing on the promise that cannot fail, When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, By the living Word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God."

This hymn was written by Russell Kelso Carter who lived from 1849-1928. He was a Methodist minister, a medical doctor, a musician and song writer. He was a professed Christian most of his life but it wasn't until his health turned bad that he truly accepted Christ and gave his life over to Him completely. He knelt and made a promise that healing or no, his life was finally and forever, fully consecrated to the service of the Lord. It was from that moment that the written Word of God became alive to Carter. He began to stand upon the promises of healing, determining to

believe no matter what his physical condition, no matter how he felt. Over the course of the next several months his strength returned, and his heart was completely healed! Carter lived another healthy 49 years.

So, how many promises are found in the Bible? A Canadian schoolteacher named Everet R. Storms undertook the massive task of tallying every promise during his 27th reading of the Bible. According to the book "*All the Promises in the Bible*" by Herbert Lockyer, this project took Storms a year and a half to complete. Storms did not just count them; he categorized them. His final tally of 8,810 promises is broken down into specific interactions:

God to Man: 7,487 promises (85% of the total). One Man to Another: 991 promises.

- Man to God: 290 promises.
- God the Father to God the Son: 2 promises.
- Promises made by Satan: 9 promises.
- Other combinations: Various miscellaneous pledges.

While the exact number may be debated, the consensus is that the Bible contains thousands of specific commitments, with the vast majority being positive assurances from God to humanity.

There are those who will say; "But God promised me (fill in the blank) and I haven't seen nothin' yet." The truth is that most of God's promises have a caveat attached, that caveat is one simple word, if. God promises, if. You want what God promises, live up to what he asks of you. There is an acronym I found in an old science fiction book. TANSTAAFL. It means; "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch." There is a cost attached to God's promises. If you want to receive the benefit of what God has promised, then you must.....You know what? I am going to let you finish the statement. Praise Be to God. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**-Lord of steadfast love and mercy, Through your Word, you have set promises before your people. Promises for good and not for evil, Promises for care and not for harm, Promises fulfilled through life and death, Promises realized through sorrow and joy. You have washed us clean, and guided us in righteousness. Eternal is your Word and life-altering your love. Still, we have strayed all too often and trusted too little. Our words have been cold, and our hearts closed off. In emptiness we have trusted and falseness we have acted. Yet you have washed us clean, and guided us in righteousness. Eternal is your Word and life-altering your love. In these seasons of giving and thanksgiving, remind us of that love which knows no bounds. Guide us in your desire for justice and forgiveness. And teach us to give, even as you are giving. In the name of your Son Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**Communion Hymn- 375- A Hymn Of Joy We Sing**

**Thanksgiving Prayer-** God our Father, you fill the hungry with good things and send the self-satisfied away empty. In this Holy Communion you have filled us with the word and the bread of life of your Son Jesus Christ. Make us hunger now for his coming in the hearts and the homes of all. Fill us with his spirit of service and self-forgetting love, that through us, he may become near to people. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

**Closing Hymn- 493- Softly And Tenderly**

**Benediction-** May you trust in God's promises to his people: peace security blessing even when they are difficult to believe. May you know that God's news is good news, nourishing true even when people tell you it is not. And when you encounter doubt, may you strengthen your belief guiding you in his perfect wisdom and counsel. Go now in peace. Amen.