

Sunday Worship

October 18, 2026

*Nursery care is available for children up to age 3
in the Nursery on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.*

Prelude

Léon Boëllmann

“Prière à Notre-Dame”

Welcome

Ringling of the Bell

The original church bell is rung in memory of Jewell Darmin (1932-1996), who is honored in our Memorial Garden.

Opening Prayer

First Scripture Reading (p. 868)

Isaiah 30:18

“Nonetheless, the Lord is waiting to be merciful to you, and will rise up to show you compassion. The Lord is a God of justice; happy are all who wait for him.”

***Hymn of Praise No. 446**

Austrian Hymn

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

“Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded, thou may’st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering. Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.”

Prayers of the People

The 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.”

Time with the Children

Gathering Song: “Jesus Loves Me”

“Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.”

Children up to 3 years old may go to the Nursery (Nursery Rm)

Children 3 years old through kindergarten are excused for Bible Bunch (Bible Bunch Rm)

Children in grades 1 through 4 are excused for Primary Sunday School (Sunday School Rm)

Children in grades 5 and up are excused for God Squad (Fellowship Hall)

Dedication of the Time Capsule

Offering . . . “Freely we have received, freely let us give.”



Scan the QR code using your phone to give to First Delray online.

Offertory Anthem

Franz Joseph Haydn

“Great and Glorious”

“Great and glorious is the Lord in majesty.

Glorious in power eternal, mighty and loving father.

Praise him for his greatness, for his exceeding greatness.

Great and glorious, mighty in awful majesty. Let all extol him evermore.

Praise ye the Lord, for it is good to sing praises unto our God.

Glorious and mighty, loving father, glorious ever in majesty.

Praise to thy name, thy holy name forevermore.

God is nigh to all that call truly upon him.

That call those who are bowed down.

Great and glorious, mighty and loving father in power eternal.

Great and glorious call upon him, mighty and loving,
glorious ever in majesty.”

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.”

Ministry of the Church

Special Music

Franz Joseph Haydn

“Qui tollis” from *Mass in Time of War*

Neil Nelson, bass solo

Latin text:

“Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.”

English translation:

“You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

You who take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.”

Second Scripture Reading (p. 868)

Isaiah 30:15

“Therefore, the Lord God, the holy one of Israel, says: In return and rest you will be saved; quietness and trust will be your strength—but you refused.”

Sermon

Dr. Hood

“Finding Poise in the Absurdities”

***Closing Hymn No. 151**

Diadmata

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

“Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.”

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

John Rutter

“Toccata in Seven”

*The congregation is invited to stand, in mind or in body.

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Instructions on using our **Hearing Assistance System** to enhance your worship experience are available at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

For more information about **connecting with our church**, please complete the card in the pews.

Use your smartphone or tablet’s camera to access the **QR Code** in the bulletin to make an online donation to the church.

The **flowers** that beautify the Chancel this morning are given by Buzz Bartholomew and family, in loving memory of Bart and Betty Bartholomew

Our **liturgist** this morning is Don Cannarozzi.

The youth host today's **Fellowship by the Sea**. Come outside the Lobby doors, enjoy a bite to eat, and say hello after worship.

Today marks the **conclusion of our 100th anniversary celebration!** As we look back with gratitude and forward with hope, we invite everyone to ***sign the memory book in the lobby***. We will place the book in our time capsule to be opened in the future, allowing those who come after us to remember this special milestone in our church's life. Please take a moment to add your name and be part of our history!

Our **condolences** are extended to the family of Marilyn Roberts, who passed away on October 10th.

Our **condolences** are also extended to the family of Tom Pemberton, who passed away on October 12th.

October is one of our **food drive** months, when we collect unopened, unexpired, non-perishable food for CROS Ministries. You can bring your donations to the church or donate by check, payable to *CROS Ministries*.

Next Sunday is our **Pennies from Heaven Offering**. Your donation helps feed hungry people in our community.

Stop by the Welcome Center to purchase **First Delray Concert Series tickets for the final concert of the 2026 concert season**: “Lights, Camera, Music!” **next Sunday, October 25th** at 4 p.m. [\$20 each]; and to purchase tickets for the **2027 season**: “My Favorite Things” on Sunday, **February 21st** at 4 p.m. [\$25 each]; “Having a Good Time with the Matt Calderin Big Band” on Sunday, **April 11th** at 4 p.m. [\$30 each]; “Peter and the Wolf & Other Animal Tales” on Sunday, **April 25th** at 4 p.m. [Adults & Teens \$10 each; children 12 and under \$5 each]; and “Wicked Good Music” on Sunday, **October 24th** at 4 p.m. [\$25 each].

We return to our **two worship-service schedule** of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on **Sunday, November 1st**. This is also the weekend we change our clocks **back one hour**.

Our First Families are **Puttin’ Into Fall** on **Sunday, November 8th** from **1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** The cost is \$20 per person, with a family cap of \$40. Reservations are required and can be made at the Welcome Center or on our website.

On **Sunday, December 13th at 6 p.m.**, our children and youth choir are celebrating Jesus’ birthday from a child’s perspective at our **Annual Christmas Pageant**.

The **Holly House Gift Shoppe** is open on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 10 a.m. to noon.

Holly House is accepting **holiday decorations and paper bags with handles** for their Holiday Gift Shoppe. You can drop off your donations at Holly House on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

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Stop by the Welcome Center and pick up a copy of the **Executive Summary** of our Congregation Assessment Tool **(CAT) results**.

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What will your legacy be? Please remember the church in your will and beneficiary designations, and become a **Legacy Partner**. Contact Colleen O'Rourke, Finance Manager (colleen@firstdelray.com) for more information.

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As of October 13th, we have raised \$3,903,761.32 for our **Renew & Rejoice Capital Campaign**. More information is available in the lobby or on our Capital Campaign page on our website, where you can view completed and ongoing projects, watch the campaign video, and learn how you can help us renew our church facilities.

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Our **Stephen Ministers** listen to, care for, and walk with those going through difficult times. If you or a loved one needs a Stephen Minister, contact Laura DeBrita, Stephen Minister Coordinator, at 954-591-0439.

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Nursery Care for children up to age 3 is available in the Nursery on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

Bible Bunch for Children, ages 3 through kindergarten, meets **after the Time with the Children** in the Bible Bunch Room on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

Primary Sunday School for Children in 1st through 4th grade meets **after the Time with the Children** in the Sunday School Room on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

God Squad for 5th grade and up meets **after the Time with the Children** in Fellowship Hall.

Youth Sunday School meets **after the Time with the Children** in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals are on **Sundays at 11:15 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall.

Youth Group meets on **Sundays at 11 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall.

Monday Morning Women's Bible Study meets Monday mornings at **10 a.m.** via Zoom. Contact Maria Graham (mmg2352@gmail.com) for more information.

Hosts Dolores McNaboe and Kathy Wilsher invite you to the **Women's Lunch by the Sea at noon** on the **second Tuesday** of the month at Boheme Bistro. Contact Kathy Wilsher (561-252-0709) with any questions. The next lunch is on **Tuesday, November 10th**.

The **Holly House Workshops** meet on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings** at 9:30 a.m. in the Holly House.

Men's Fellowship meets **Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m.** at The Original Pancake House (1840 S. Federal Hwy) for a warm breakfast, meaningful conversation, and fellowship. Contact Fred McNaboe (561-350-4294) for more information.

Women's Discipleship Group next meets on **Thursday, October 29th, at 10 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Contact Pamela Kent-Balasco (561-414-7552) for more information.

First Delray Ringers meets on **Thursdays at 6 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall.

Read Dr. Doug Hood's weekly **Nurture Faith** meditation on our website under Resources.

Visit our website (www.firstdelray.com) for more information about our ministries.



The following meditation was written by Rev. Susan Sparks, senior minister at Madison Avenue Baptist Church (American Baptist) in New York City.

Singing in the Battle

REFLECT:

Each week, I try to make it to the gym. It's not always easy. Some days, it's a fight just to get out the door. But I go.

For the past year or so, there has been a woman in the locker room who sings. Sometimes humming, sometimes full-on belting out a song. It's sweet. A little annoying, maybe. But sweet. One day last week I asked her, "What song is that you're singing?" She smiled and said, "I have no idea. I just don't love to work out. So, I sing myself into battle."

Amen to that.

Every one of us is in a daily battle of some kind. Work problems. Health struggles. Family dynamics. The pressures are real. And while we know our own battles well, we rarely know what others are carrying.

The New York Times columnist Frank Bruni once wrote that if people wore sandwich boards listing their struggles, we'd move through the world with much more compassion. He shared an example of a sign a friend of his might

wear: “Single parent. Child with special needs. Nowhere near enough help.”¹

What would your sign say?

We’re all fighting on multiple fronts. But we aren’t the only ones. The Bible shares story after story of people facing similar life struggles—ancient wisdom for our time. Which is why the story in 2 Chronicles 20 is such a gift. It’s a reminder that maybe we’ve been fighting all wrong.

In this three-thousand-year-old story, we find three lessons.

LESSON 1: King Jehoshaphat gets word that a vast army is headed straight for him and the people of Judah. Instead of panicking or preparing military strategy, the king does something radical: he prays. And not just a quick “Help us, God!” prayer—he prays with depth, naming God’s promises and ending with this vulnerable, faithful line: “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”² What if that became our mantra?

LESSON 2: Then something even more surprising happens. God’s answer to the king’s prayer doesn’t come directly to the king. God speaks from an unexpected place—a Levite in the crowd. The Levite says, “Do not be afraid. The battle is not yours, but God’s.”³ How many battles are we fighting that were never ours to begin with? How much more peace might we find if we paused and let God take the lead?

LESSON 3: The next morning, Jehoshaphat calls out his army. But instead of soldiers, he sends singers to the front lines. That’s right—he puts the choir

¹ Bruni, Frank. *The Beauty of Dusk: On Vision Lost and Found*. New York: Avid Reader Press, 2022, chap. 6.

² 2 Chronicles 20:12.

³ 2 Chronicles 20:15.

ahead of the infantry. As they go out to meet the enemy, they sing: “Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever.”⁴

They weren’t singing because they had already won. They were singing into the battle—because they trusted in the presence of God no matter the outcome.

From Paul and Silas singing in prison to spirituals sung on freedom marches, this is a deep tradition of hope. So how do we live that today? We follow these three lessons:

We pray: “I don’t know what to do, but my eyes are on you.”

We pause: “Be still. The battle is not yours.”

We praise: Even if our voice shakes. Even if we’re scared. We lead with gratitude and sing our way into the battle.

Know whatever battle you face, you are not alone. Because faith, in the end, beats fear every time.

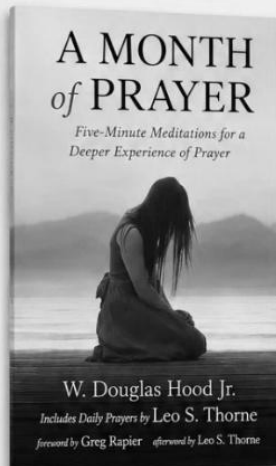
RESPOND:

1. How has this scripture or meditation spoken to you? **Pray:** *“What would you have me hear, O Lord?”*
2. What one specific act do you intend to take, an attitude to change, a person to see, or prayer to pray? **Pray:** *“What would you have me do, O Lord?”*

⁴ 2 Chronicles 20:21

Spiritual Resources

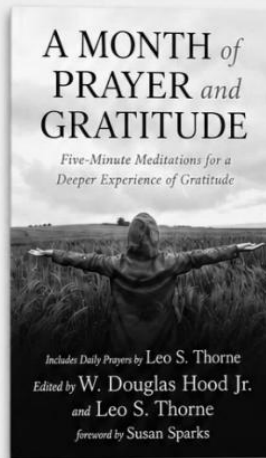
*Simple practices. Deeper connection.
Stronger spirit.*



PRAYER

*Five-minute meditations
for a deeper experience
of prayer.*

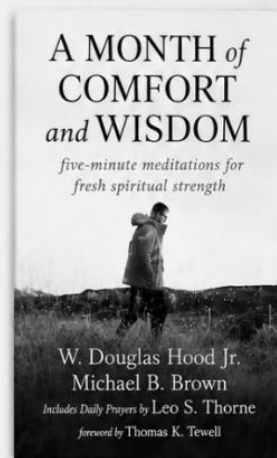
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PRAYER & GRATITUDE

*Five-minute meditations
for a deeper experience
of gratitude.*

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\$10



COMFORT & WISDOM

*five-minute meditations
for fresh spiritual
strength.*

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\$10



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for credit card payments