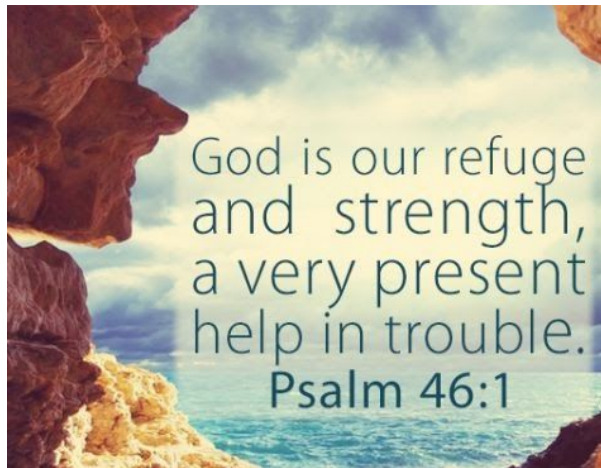


August 2, 2020



The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.



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Pastor Dennis Burriss: dennis@bethanybaptist.ab.ca



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Today - Sunday, August 2

8:45 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Worship Service [Also Livestreamed]

Pastor Dennis Burriss

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Church Wide Prayer Meeting [via Zoom]

Children's Ministries



Children's Church: activity pages emailed weekly

Important Notes!

1. Please contact the church office with any questions, concerns, or comments.
2. If you wish to have a CD of the service please contact the church office.
3. Donations may be made online on the church website, www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca, also by mail, or dropped off at the church office (no cash over \$100 please).
4. We are looking for volunteers for our audio/visual team for Sunday services, contact the church office if you are interested.

Question: "What does it mean God is our refuge and strength and an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1)? Article from www.gotquestions.org

Answer: [Psalm 46:1](#) contains a description of God and a wonderful promise based on His character: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." The next verse continues with what should be our natural response: "Therefore we will not fear" (verse 2).

In [Psalm 46](#), the poet describes various kinds of disasters and the chaos that marks our existence in this broken and sinful world. He alludes to natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, and floods (verses 2 and 3). He mentions the elements of war and violence in verses 8 and 9. But, through it all, "we will not fear" (verse 2).

The various distresses the psalmist lists are an occasion to take note of God's help. He is our refuge, our strength, and an ever-present help in troubled times. In the hardships of this life, we find safety and rest in God. The world is unstable, but "the city of God"—His habitation—is established and secure ([Psalm 46:4-6](#)). No matter what happens in this world, God will be exalted, and those who are His will ultimately be safe (verses 10-11). We can "be still and know" that He is God (verse 10).

The structure of [Psalm 46](#) is beautiful. Verses 2 and 3 along with verses 8 and 9 describe disasters and trials. But verses 1, 4-7 and 10-11 describe God's power and safety in the midst of those difficulties. So the trouble is bracketed by God's promises; the verses about the difficulties of life are graphically "surrounded" by verses about the power and safety of the Lord. This is an amazing picture. Like a mother or father who hugs and comforts a fearful and upset child, God surrounds us and protects us in our difficulties. Note that the psalmist doesn't state that God will remove us from the difficulty; rather, God will protect us and glorify Himself in the midst of the difficulty.

He is our refuge. God provides safety. We take shelter in our relationship with Him (cf. [Proverbs 18:10](#)).

He is our strength. God gives us the power we need to endure hardship as we serve Him, fight spiritual battles, resist temptation, and bear up under persecution. We are weak, but He is strong (cf. [2 Corinthians 12:10](#)).

He is an ever-present help in trouble. God is at hand. He is not far away from us but nearby to assist us in the tasks He has assigned (cf. [Psalm 145:18](#)).

Here are some points of application:

1. There are two groups described in [Psalm 46](#). One group is protected by the Lord, and one group fights against the Lord. If we would experience God's protection, we must belong to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. Have you been saved by God through believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and eternal life? Can you truly say, "God is my refuge"?

2. True peace will not come until we are with the Lord in "the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells" ([Psalm 46:4](#)). This means that, in this world, we may experience hurt, and, eventually, we will die. But in the midst of it all, God is working everything out for good (see [Romans 8:28](#)). For those who belong to God, even the bad stuff has a good end! We are eternally safe.

3. The ultimate goal is to exalt and glorify God. This is the purpose of your life. As you rest in His protection during the difficulties of this life, you are showing the goodness and power of God. Thus, no matter what happens, trust Him. Even if things don't seem to turn out as you would like, remember that you are not home yet.

Because God promises to be our refuge and strength, we do not fear. Because He is an ever-present help in trouble, those who belong to Him can commit their way to Him and take their rest. God is saying, "Be still. Trust me. I've got this."

Recommended Resource: [Be Still ... and Know That I Am God: Devotions for Every Day of the Year](#) by Gus Keiser

Prayer Opportunities

**Pray for our Missionaries.
Refer to your "In the Fold"
Missionary Prayer Cards.**

- **Acute Health Needs:**
- **Children:** Sunday School
- **Fellowship Prairies Church:** Raymond Baptist, Raymond, AB

To send a Prayer Request or join the Prayer Line: Phone or email the church office

Small Groups Ministry

Coordinator: Martin Scholz

- **Blankestijn - call:** Addie & Diana ([Fridays](#) 6:30 p.m.)
- **Scholz - call:** Martin & Lorna (Two [Sundays](#) per month after the service)
- **Shortt/Reeve - call:** Doug & Joan ([Wednesdays](#) 7:00 p.m.)
Don & Patricia
- **Smith - call:** Tom & Tina ([Wednesdays](#) 6:30 p.m.)
- **Street - call:** Dave & Laurel

As a way to serve and shepherd our church family better, the Elders Board would like to invite your prayer requests, comments, and questions to the Elder associated with your last name.

Elder Shepherding Groups

A - B (Richard Klassen); C-D (Pastor Peter Erratt); Du - Han (Addie Blankestijn); Har - Kom (Lyndon Unger); Kow - Me (David Street); Mu - Ree (Tom Smith); Rei - Sm (Don Collier); St - Z (Pastor Dennis Burriss)

Donation Policy

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.