

praying AT HOME & TOGETHER

santa barbara community church



WEEK OF JUNE 21. 2020

Psalm 139 and 130

Psalm 139:22-24

Search me, O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD ;
O Lord, hear my voice.

² Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, O LORD , kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness;
therefore you are feared.

⁵ I wait for the LORD , my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, put your hope in the LORD ,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

CONSIDER

- **CHARLES SPURGEON:** "None fear the Lord like those who have experienced his forgiving love". All our worship starts from the place where we confess our sins and lay hold of the One who is the atoning sacrifice for them, as 1 John 1:8-2:2 – reminds us repeatedly."
- **THIEF ON THE CROSS:** From the depths, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom" Jesus "over answers": "Today you shall be with me in paradise."

STAFF

- James Asselin – Pastoral Assistant – Worship
- Caleb Bagdanov – Youth Ministry
- Claire Berghold – Children and Family Ministries
- Benji Bruneel – Lead Pastor
- Paige Chase – Children and Family Ministries
- Mario Cobian – Facilities
- Mandy DuPar – Youth Ministry

- Deana Gilman – Church Administration
- Brittney Grimshaw – Preschool Director
- Joanne Herdrich – Women’s Ministry
- Karen McLean – Executive Pastor
- Jim Nelson – Visitation, Pastoral Care
- Erin Patterson – Homegroups
- Carolee Peterson – Technical Administration
- Kathy Roberts – Accounts Receivable
- Katie Shara - Pastoral Assistant – Youth and College
- Donna Sugano – Children and Family Ministries
- Mike Willbanks – Lead Pastor

MISSIONS

SANTA BARBARA CHURCHES

- Greater Hope Baptist --
- Hispanic Baptist --
- Holy Cross – Fr. Ludo DeClippel CJ
- Hope Community – Jim Firth
- Jubilee Christian Church – Jon Eymann
- Lewis Chapel CME –
- Light and Life Goleta – David Goss

THE SUFFERING CHURCH: 245 million Christians face high levels of persecution in 50 countries. “If one part [of the Body of Christ] suffers, every part suffers with it.” 1 Corinthians 12:26

ILLEGAL TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

Morocco

Although Morocco is considered to be relatively tolerant compared to other countries in the region, it is illegal to evangelize. Moroccan law criminalizes “shaking the faith of a Muslim,” which means that Christians who talk to others about their faith risk criminal charges and arrest. Converts to Christianity can be punished in other ways, as well, such as losing inheritance rights and custody of children. Other restrictions imposed by Islamic authorities include the confiscation of Christian literature in Arabic (including Bibles) and serious challenges in securing places of worship for Christians with a Muslim background. Islamic extremists are also a threat; advocates for the rights of Christians have been targeted for violent attack.

Examples

Several converts from Islam to Christianity were detained and questioned by the security services about their possession of Bibles, as well as their contact with foreign Christians. Converts from a Muslim background are often the victim of physical or even sexual abuse at the hands of members of their (extended) family. Female converts have been forced to marry a Muslim man. During the reporting period, at least two church properties were vandalized. The number of church properties in Morocco is very low. The apartment of at least one convert from Islam to Christianity was demolished by his own family.

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought me in safety to this new day: Preserve me with your mighty power, that I may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all I do direct me to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ my Lord. AMEN.

The Book of Common Prayer