

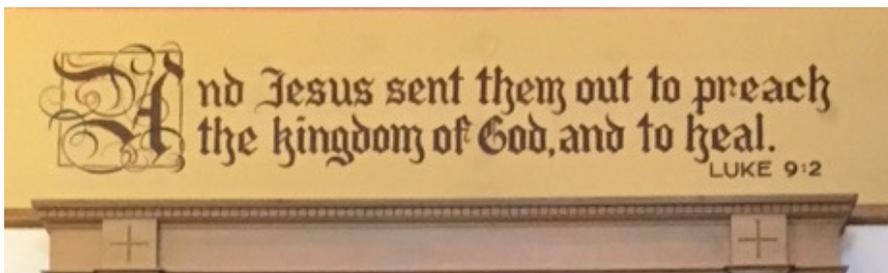
## Grace to you...and Peace

Summer is here! We've begun worshipping in different spaces in the church building. And as we transition to worship in the Fellowship Hall and the Chapel, I just want to point out two signs—one in each space—that are rich with meaning.

In the Fellowship Hall, a cross was added last year right above the “fireplace” on the stage. The cross says, “**The LORD is my Strength & my Song,**” and is decorated with images of birds and branches and flowers. It gives the sense of provision, joy, and freedom, as well as beauty! The scripture quote comes from Exodus 15:2, which is immediately after the Hebrews are released from “Egypt, from the house of slavery” and have just crossed through the sea on dry land while their foes are consumed by the water. “The LORD is my strength and my song” is part of the newly freed slaves’ song of praise for the mighty works the Lord has done on their behalf to bring them to freedom. It is my prayer that the themes of provision, joy, freedom, and beauty will fill the services in the Fellowship Hall this summer, as we sing together joyful songs of praise!



In the Chapel, painted on the wall high above the crosses, front and center, is a quotation of Luke 9:2. In Luke ch. 8, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and the four soils, calms the raging storm, casts out “Legion” from the Gerasene demoniac, heals a woman who “had had a flow of blood for 12 years” and raises Jairus’ 12-year-old daughter from the dead! It’s a full chapter!!! Immediately after Jesus does all that—teach, exorcise demons, heal, grant new life—in ch. 8, Luke 9:1 says that Jesus called the Twelve together and gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases. And then comes “the writing on the wall” in our Chapel. Luke 9:2 says, “**and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal.**” The designers of the Chapel must have felt that this was a good reminder and also a call for us in



our day, and it is my prayer that the themes of preaching the gospel, exercising divine power, and demonstrations of healing will fill the services in the Chapel this summer.

For Unity, this summer, regardless of which service we attend, may we each experience the Lord’s freedom and deliverance in our lives, which strengthens us and compels us “to sing” the joyful praises of Jesus, *and* may we each respond to the empowering call of Jesus sending us out with the message of his gracious Kingdom, demonstrated in our lives that bring deliverance and healing to others! This is the Church! This is who we are! This is our call to Glorify God... in Jesus’ name! Amen.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

*Jeff*