



"Wrath of Elihu" William Blake 1757-1827

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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On this fifth Sunday after Pentecost, we continue our summer series about things that people often think are in the Bible – but aren't... *For the Bible Tells Me So* explores sayings that are ascribed to Bible verses in order that we might be much more biblically grounded in our everyday lives. In today's lesson, we consider the idea that "everything happens for a reason." This sounds churchy, doesn't it? But does the Bible really say this? *Not exactly!* Regardless, our scripture today from Job gives us a framework for making sense of things in our everyday lives.

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision* Ashdown

Words of Welcome

Opening Song *O God Beyond All Praising* Hymn 64

Opening Litany

One: We bring ourselves this morning.

All: Our desires. Our consolations. Our desolations.

One: We offer ourselves this morning.

All: Our praise. Our prayers. Our petitions.

One: We bear it all this morning.

All: Our questions. Our doubts. Our laments.

One: Today, from Job to Jesus, we ask the question: Why?

All: Let us listen for the voice of the still-speaking God. Amen!

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, only you know the answers to the questions we raise to you. Why? What? Where? How long? When? How? How come? Be with us today as we hear the story of Job – who stood before you and asked the hardest question. And be with us as we explore if there is a reason behind what happens in this life. Amen.

The Gloria

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile

Special Music *How Firm a Foundation* Bell Choir

First Lesson

[Job 1:1-12, Job 42:1-6](#)

There once was a man named Job. He was blameless and upright. Job's life was caught up in a divine wager between God and Satan. His life was upended. In the last analysis, Job stands before God and learns why God has allowed his life to unravel.

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ² There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³ He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. ⁴ His sons used to go and hold feasts in one another's houses in turn; and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ And when the feast days had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer

burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." This is what Job always did.

Attack on Job's Character

⁶ One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ⁸ The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil." ⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." ¹² The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!" So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. Then Job answered the Lord: ² "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³ 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴ 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' ⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶ therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Reader's Theatre

[Job 42](#) (The Voice)

One: Job said to God:

Two: I know You can do everything; nothing You do can be foiled or frustrated. You asked,

Three: Who is this that conceals counsel with empty words void of knowledge?

Two: and now I see that I spoke of—but did not comprehend—great wonders that are beyond me. I didn't know. You said,

Three: Hear Me now, and I will speak. I'll be asking the questions, and you will supply the answers.

Two: Before I knew only what I heard of You, but now I have seen You. Therefore, I realize the truth: I disavow and mourn all I have said and repent in dust and ash.

One: The Eternal One restored the fortunes of Job after he prayed for his friends; He even doubled the wealth he had before. All of his brothers and sisters, along with those he had known earlier, came and shared meals with him at his house. They sympathized with him and consoled him regarding the great distress the Eternal had brought on him. Each guest gave him a sum of money and each, a golden ring. The Eternal One blessed the last part of Job's life even more than the first part. He went on to possess 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 teams of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. He also fathered seven more sons and three more daughters. After all this, Job lived 140 years. He lived to see his children and their children and so on, to the fourth generation. Then Job died, old, and satisfied with his days.

New Testament

[Mark 15:25-34](#)

In this passage, Jesus is put to death on the cross. He was mocked by onlookers and the soldiers who crucified him. When Jesus hung from the cross, he called out to God in his native tongue: "Why have you forsaken me?" It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save

himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

The Death of Jesus

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Sermon

Everything Happens for a Reason?

Rev. Daniel Stark

Sermon Song

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Hymn 500

Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayers, O God...

For health & healing: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.* Ps. 147:3

We pray for:

- ~Don A, who suffered a stroke and is scheduled to be released from the hospital if all goes well.
- ~Jennifer G, who had a near fatal car accident and is overcoming a concussion and (thankfully) minor injuries.
- ~Dan V, who is continuing to recover after surgery for malignant melanoma.
- ~Joan B, who is coping with spinal stenosis.
- ~Joyce N, continued prayers after she lost her house in a fire.
- ~Laurel D, who continues to recover from surgery on her broken wrist.
- ~Betty B, who continues to feel better every day.
- ~Ken and Susie K. as Ken recovers from recent surgery. Prayers for healing.
- ~Kim and her husband, Jim, who are friends of Mary Ann M. Kim is once again hospitalized with multiple medical issues.
- ~Karl, son-in-law of Ken & Sue K., as he continues being treated for liver and colorectal cancer.
- ~Ian B, as he begins radiation in Chicago in July, that treatment is as effective as possible, and for Molly as she holds down the fort with the three girls during those three weeks.
- ~Rick, Uncle of Laura P who recently had a “routine” heart procedure that did not go well and is now in critical condition. Prayers for the whole family.
- ~Judy, niece of Ken K as she is on chemo for breast cancer.
- ~Kathy, Ken’s sister who was moved to hospice at a nursing home and has a serious chronic infection and vascular dementia.
- ~Susie K’s Aunt Evelyn and Aunt Eleanore who are in hospice.
- ~Dan, friend of Molly as he and his young family navigate his illness.
- ~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie S as they navigate Joe’s medical issues.
- ~Dawn & Brad D, daughter in-law and son of Laurel as she manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week for her kidneys and Brad as he heals from a broken arm that required several surgeries.
- ~Tracy, daughter of Nancy K, who is at home with Nancy awaiting a liver transplant.
- ~Continued prayers for Julene F’s nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.

Prayer Song

I’m Gonna Pray So God Can Use Me

Hymn 574 var.

**I’m gonna pray so God can use me
anytime and anywhere.**

**I’m gonna pray so God can use me
anytime and anywhere.**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

Special Music

I Love To Tell the Story

Bell Choir

Communion

Invitation to Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

In joy we give our thanks and praise!

And so, with your people on Earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise your name in this unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are filled with Your glory:
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!**

The Story

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Closing Song

God Be with You

Hymn 716

Sending

One: Jesus loves me yes I know,

All: for the Bible tells me so.

One: Little ones to him belong,

All: they are weak but he is strong,

One: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,

All: yes, Jesus loves me...

One: ...the Bible *definitely* tells us so! Amen!

Postlude

Festive Scherzo

Archer

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways*

Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

6/27 – Don Antoniewicz

6/28 – Ola Zyszkiewicz

6/29 – Lauralei Schmidling

7/2 – Lori Pisarek

7/2 – Gary Wegner

7/3 – Lynn Slattery

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.

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