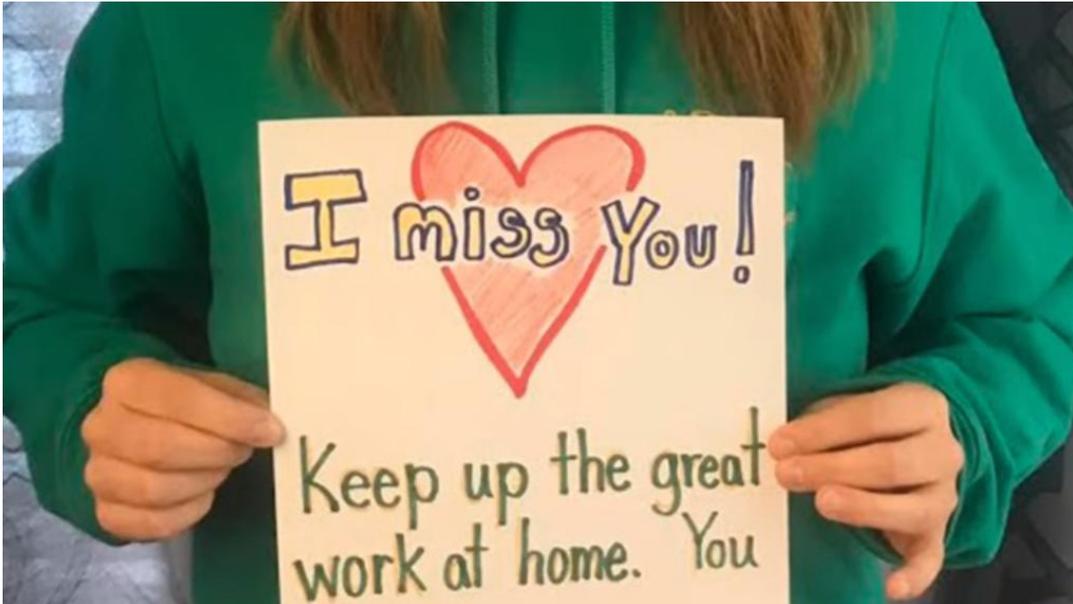


Sunday August 9 7:00 PM



August Memory Verse

“Fear not, for I *am* with you;
Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God.
I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10 NKJV

Welcome

Pastoral Prayer

Memory Verse

Kid's Talk

Pastor Blake Flinchum

Praise & Worship

Worship Pastor Jonathan Hendrickson

Hold Us Together

Verse 1

It don't have a job
It don't pay your bills
Won't buy you a home in Beverly Hills
Won't fix your life
In five easy steps
Ain't the law of the land or the government
But it's all you need

Chorus

And love will hold us together
Make us a shelter to weather the storm
And I'll be my brother's keeper
So the whole world will know that we're not alone

Verse 2

It's waiting for you
Knocking at your door
In the moment of truth
When your heart hits the floor
And you're on your knees

Bridge

This is the first day of the rest of your life
This is the first day of the rest of your life
'Cause even in the dark you can still see the light
It's gonna be alright it's gonna be alright

CCLI Song # 5553657

Same Power

Verse 1

I can see the waters raging at my feet
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me
I can hear the sound of nations rising up
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

Verse 2

I can walk down this dark and painful road
I can face ev'ry fear of the unknown
I can hear all God's children singing out
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks
The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us lives in us
He lives in us lives in us

Verse 3

We have hope that His promises are true
In His strength there is nothing we can't do
Yes we know there are greater things in store
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

Bridge

Greater is He that is living in me
He's conquered our enemy (oh)
No power of darkness
No weapon prevails
We stand here in victory oh
(REPEAT)

In victory yeah

CCLI Song # 7031700

By His Wounds

Chorus

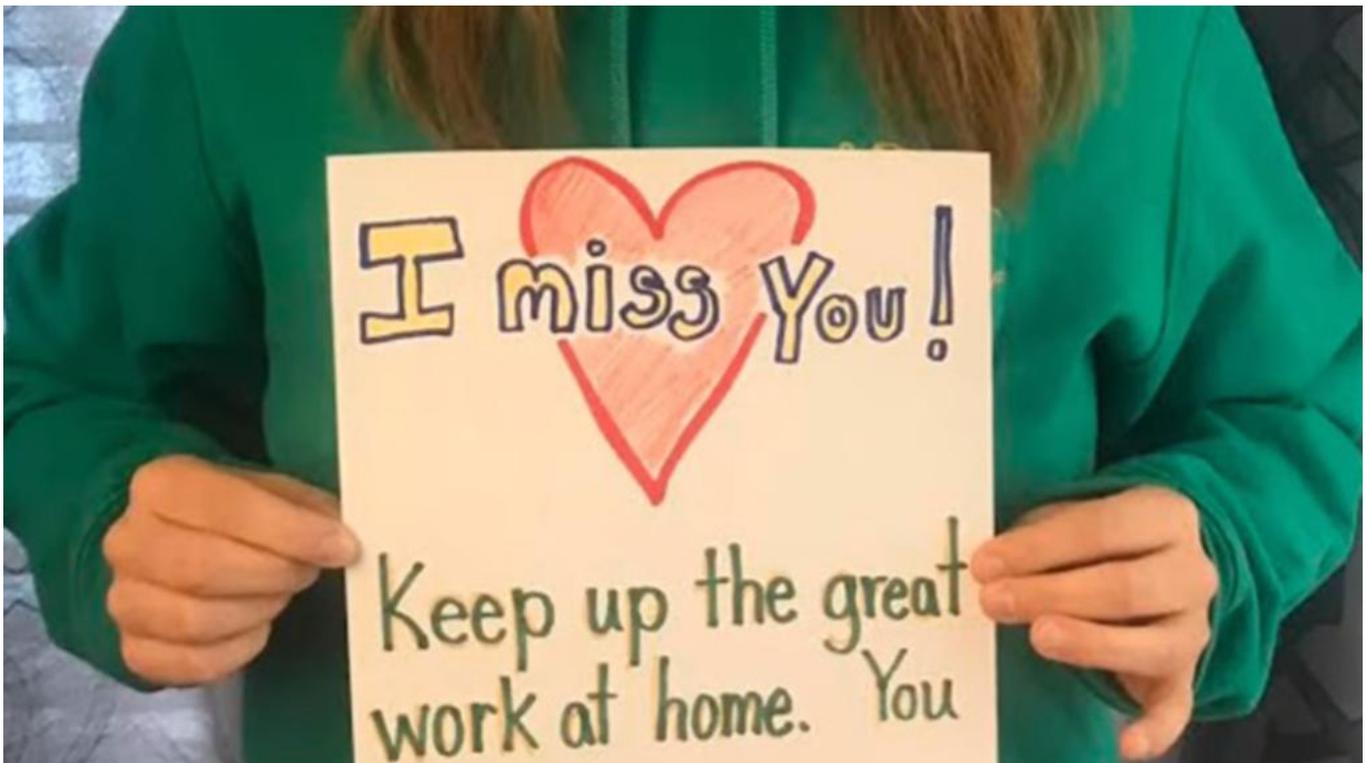
He was pierced for our transgressions
He was crushed for our sins
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him
And by His wounds by His wounds
We are healed

Verse

We are healed by Your sacrifice
In the life that You gave
We are healed for You paid the price
By Your grace we are saved
We are saved

CCLI Song # 4926560

CCLI License # 911208



“Comforting the Downcast”

Senior Pastor Rev. Jeff McCarthy

“Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,”

2 Corinthians 7:6 NKJV

Intro: Today is our official “Back to School” Sunday. Even though it is our official Sunday, it is definitely not a typical Back to School Sunday. Over the years I’ve been here as youth pastor and pastor, we have had to delay Back to School Sunday one time due to a hurricane. The delay was only for a week. This Back to School Sunday is different because of Covid-19.

A typical Back to School Sunday was filled with anticipation and excitement. Many students were transitioning from one grade level to another. Some were nervous because they would be attending a new school. High School seniors were excited about finally getting prepared for graduating.

I always loved Back to School time growing up. It meant I was going to get at least two new pairs of jeans, two new shirts, and a new pair of tennis shoes. I would also be getting a bunch of hand me downs from my older brothers and a cousin. Finally I would get to see all my friends from school that I hadn’t seen over the summer.

Back to school is important for kids, but is also important for teachers. Teachers are tremendous influencers. They love to teach, but they also love their students. While teaching has many challenges, most teachers want to do their job because they see it as a calling. For the Christian teacher, teaching is an opportunity to show grace to kids who may not otherwise experience it. We are blessed to have some of those teachers here at RoS.

So this Back to School Sunday is different. It is bittersweet. For the majority of our church, kids and teachers will not be together at school. The shut down means more remote learning. Everyone agrees that this is not ideal.

According to the Gallup organization, in a June 15 article entitled “U.S. Parent say Covid-19 Harming Child’s Mental Health”, 45% of parents say being separated from classmates and teachers in terms of distance learning is a major challenge and 25% say it’s a minor challenge. Only 8% say it is not a challenge. For those parents who say it’s a major challenge, 45% indicate their child’s emotional and mental health is experiencing harm.

Unless you haven’t really been paying attention, Covid-19 has put mental, emotional, and psychological stress on every age group in our society. We all have faced stress and distress. Many people, including children are depressed, saddened, and downcast. They need comfort.

In 2 Corinthians 7:6, Paul admitted he experienced stress and sadness. When he was downcast, he knew he could depend on God to comfort him. Not only that, he also knew God would send others, like Titus, to provide him comfort as well.

Today, I want to comfort our students, our teachers, and the rest of us who may be feeling downcast on this Back to School Sunday. Let us be a church that comforts the downcast.



I. God Himself Comforts the Downcast (6a)

“Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast...”

NLT: “But God, who encourages those who are discouraged...”

Context: 2 Cor. 7:5-7 NLT

God is the Source of All Comfort

2 Cor. 1:3 NLT

Isaiah 66:13 NKJV

John 14:16 old KJV and CSB

2 Thess. 2:16-17 NLT

II. God uses Others to Comfort the Downcast (6b)

“God...comforted us by the coming of Titus.”

Example of Titus

Titus 1:4 NLT

2 Cor. 8:16-17 NLT

2 Cor. 8:23 NLT

He Comforts us so We Can Comfort Others

Rom. 15:4 NKJV

2 Cor. 1:3-6 NLT

Invitation

How He Loves

Verse 1

He is jealous for me loves like a hurricane
I am a tree bending beneath
The weight of His wind and mercy
When all of a sudden I am unaware of
These afflictions eclipsed by glory
I realize just how beautiful You are
And how great Your affections are for me

Pre-Chorus

Oh how He loves us so
Oh how He loves us
How He loves us so
(REPEAT)

Chorus

(Yeah) He loves us
Oh how He loves us
Oh how He loves us
Oh how He loves
(REPEAT)

Verse 2

We are His portion and He is our prize
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes
If grace is an ocean we're all sinking
So Heaven meets earth
Like an unforeseen kiss
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest
I don't have time to maintain these regrets
When I think about the way that

CCLI Song # 5032549

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Announcements & Closing Prayer

Youth Pastor Jeremiah Custar