

*Installation Service for
Rev. E. Waitman Hager
Fairmont First
Church of the Nazarene
November 5th, 2006*



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Prelude Welcome & Greeting By DS

A Call To Worship *DS - light text.*

Let the Heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; Let them say among the nations,

THE LORD REIGNS

Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous.

THE LORD'S RIGHT HAND HAS DONE MIGHTY THINGS!

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

YOU ARE MY GOD

And I will give you thanks;

YOU ARE MY GOD

And I will exalt you.

I WILL TRUST IN YOUR UNFAILING LOVE;

My heart rejoices in your salvation;

**I WILL PRAISE GOD'S NAME IN SONG AND GLORIFY HIM WITH
THANKSGIVING**

Reading of God's Word



- Isaiah 42:1-7
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- Ephesians 4:14-16



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Reading of the Word

Reader One Isaiah 42:1-7

Reader Two Ephesians 4:1-6

Reader Three Ephesians 4:14-16

Choir

Symbols of Covenant

- The Candle
- The Flower
- The Bible
- The Hymnal
- The Church Directory
- The Mission Statement
 - The Tithe
 - The Manual
- A Vessel of Water
- The Oil of Healing
- The Bread & Cup
- The Gifts of Friendship



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Symbols of Covenant

The Candle – Jesus, the Light of the World.

The Flower – Beautiful Growth, Fragrant

The Bible – Teach us the Word

The Hymnal – Help us to Praise

The Church Directory – People New and Old

The Mission Statement - Help us accomplish God's Mission

The Tithe – Set the example of Godly Stewardship

The Manual of the Church – We are a Nazarene Congregation

Vessel of Water – The power of the Spirit of God

The Oil of Healing – The Healing of lives through Christ

The Bread & Cup of Christ – The Sacrifice that reminds us of hope

The Family Gifts – The Family we share in Love

Judging a New Leader

- Rule #1 Don't!
- Rule #2 Let Him Be Himself
- Rule #3 Give Him Time
- Rule #4 Before you judge, pray
- Rule #5 Trust first and assume the best
- Rule #6 Build him up
- Rule #7 Demonstrate Grace!



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RULE #1 Don't! Jesus warned us that we can have problems when we judge others.

RULE #2 Let Him or Her be themselves. Don't try to compare the new leader to his or her predecessor. No two leaders are alike. Each comes with strengths and weaknesses.

RULE #3 Give Him or Her Time. It isn't easy to gather the reins of a ten horse team that is already moving forward.

RULE #4 Before you judge, pray. Pray for this family. the institution for wisdom for Divine guidance.

RULE #5 Trust First by Assuming the Best. You may be wrong or hasty in judgment. You may have partial facts and have not yet seen all the factors in the decision.

RULE #6 Build Him or Her Up. Give encouragement and affirmation. Speak well of him to others. God's Word says that is the kind of talk that should be common in the Body of Christ.

RULE #7 Demonstrate Grace! Eventually, he or she will do something you won't agree. God expects you to exercise grace, mercy, and even forgiveness. After all, that's how God treats you.

A New Leader

Joshua 3:5



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The people of Israel at the edge of the Jordan River. For 38 years they have procrastinated the challenge to enter into the land that was promised.

The Promise: A land where I will be your God and you will be My people!

A whole generation of people had missed out on the promise. Joshua now lead the forces of Israel, succeeding Moses.

Face Tomorrow!

- How do you feel the church?
- There is a “Promised Land”
- A place under His providence, power, and provision.



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Joshua leads the people to preparation. After a prolonged time of prayer and patience before God, he called out to the people. The time had come for a great tomorrow!

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FUTURE?

Are you expectant? A sure sign that you are in solid communion with God is that you believe more in the future than the past! Followers of Christ believe that tomorrow, He will do great things in his people.

The word wonderful can be thrown too easily. Yet it is used for surprise, awe, and delight. That is the response of the amazing interventions of God! God can surprise us with the release of his power in the face of impossible challenges.

THERE IS A PROMISED LAND FOR OUR ISRAEL!

God made a promise to the people, but the people failed to step out and take that promise. The land was promised to them. It was in this land that they would live under his Providence, Power and Provision!

OUR PROMISED LAND IS THAT AND MORE!

God has promised us a land as well! It is not a place but a realm of reality where He is Lord of our lives and we live in the here and now as Children of God. Under HIS providence, power, and provision. It is an abundant life of Joy and abiding in Christ as new life, the resolution of long endured impossibilities, and the realization of our full potential.

It is a Jordan River experience where we cross over from what we once were, to what HE wants us to become. But the Jordan river separates us from our fondest hopes!

THIS PASSAGE GIVES US THE STRATEGY TO CROSS THAT RIVER!

Begin with Consecration

- Sanctify Yourselves, for tomorrow!
- The Strategy was shared with the people.



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CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY

Both words come from the same root word that means "to cut away" or "to be brightened". Yet both translations have an element of Holiness. The people of Israel were to cut themselves from the past and anything else that would hinder their absolute devotion and expectation of God. They were to be "Brightened" as they realized they belonged to God. God would give them the land.

For us today it is the same. We must be cut loose from the binding and blinding past and be brightened with the hope of Jesus Christ in our lives.

THE STRATEGY WAS SHARED WITH THE PEOPLE

It was open and shared with the people because it was required for the process. Consecration of the people was necessary because what they Lord was going to do would require cooperation, trust, and courage.

They were told to consecrate themselves tonight. Then in the morning, they would walk through the waters of the river.

A New Leader A New Day

- The Riverbed Event
- The Leader was in the river with them



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THE RIVERBED EVENT

After consecration, the morning came. It was harvest time so the waters were high. The promise was that as the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the water, the river would be stopped up.

The challenge for the priests who carried the ark. Imagine the courage needed. The miracle required the priests getting their feet wet.

Early in the morning, they shouldered the Ark and moved down to the swollen river. Imagine the fear and mixture of emotions that must have been on the hearts of the priests.

Courage may have come from the Ark itself. It contained the two tablets of the Ten Commandments. It held the mercy seat of God recalling the atonement.

As they stepped toward the water there was no turning back. They took the first step into the water and **NOTHING HAPPENED!** But soon the water began to slow. And with each step they took, the waters began to recede.

The scripture tells us that in Adam (15-18 miles away) the waters stood up in one heap. Land came together and formed a damn that slowed the water. With each step the river began to run dry.

*** Each miracle is new and original. It is not the same as the Red Sea being parted.**

JOSHUA WAS THERE IN THE RIVER WITH THEM

There were Joshua and the priests standing firm in the middle of the river. They were encouraging one another, knowing that God keeps his promises. The people began to rush by.

Be Patience

- The Test of Endurance
- The Altar of Praise



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THE ENDURANCE TEST

What if the priests turned back when the waters didn't instantly draw back? What if they had not stayed in the water? The endurance test is that crisis moment when you just don't see God's plan unfolding, but yet his promise is still true!

EXAMPLES FROM LIFE OF TIME DELAY IN GOD'S PROVISION...

THE HISTORIC RECORD

The Jordan river has done this same thing two other times in history. In December of 1267, a portion of banks of the Jordan collapsed and filled in the river, stopping it's flow for several hours. Then in 1927 the same phenomenon occurred for 21 hours. The high, dry banks, unprotected by turf are undercut by the flow of the river. Finally the bank collapses and blocks the river with a natural damn.

Some suggest that this happened in Joshua's day, implying that it wasn't a miracle. But it is still a miracle.

Coincidence = two incidents that occur simultaneously producing an effect that is beyond all reason!

As one old timer puts it, "Stop praying and the coincidences stop happening." It was God's doing. Joshua didn't run to Adam and observe this natural phenomenon. He didn't send a National Geographic team to observe the effects on migrating fish. He knew it was of God.

THE TAKING OF STONES

They gathered stones to build an altar. These stones became a cherished memorial of God's power and providence.

Be Thankful

- Thanksgiving in our hearts as God leads us is the sure way to turn a single victory into a succession of victories.



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TO FACE TOMORROW OFFER THANKSGIVING AT THE END OF A DAY

THIS MAKES IT A SUCCESSION OF MIRACLES... NOT JUST ONE! This whole book of Joshua is a story of God's providing and powerful hand. This was only the first of many battles. When we give thanks to God for the victories HE has won, it become our first as well.

*For this new day,
there is a new
leader.
God will provide
the new miracle*



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