



November 6, 2024

MESSENGER

QUOTE FOR TODAY

"I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among all peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds."

Psalm 57:9, 10

INFO

Sermons are always available...catch up on the ones you haven't heard!

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Home Again

At last Sunday's Homecoming, I was very touched by the youth skit of the song, "Running Home" by Cochran & Co.

The presentation dovetailed with our celebration, as the last posters displayed gave our Homecoming message: "I'm Home Again, A B C."

We welcomed many former attenders and members, some driving over an hour to be with us. We sang songs of praise. We heard about street kids in Brazil, and what our Global Outreach partners at Hope Unlimited, Phil and Corenne Smith, are doing for them. Our Lay Worship Leader, Joe Cavallo, encouraged us to come near to God through daily devotionals. (He recommends <http://www.biblegateway.com> for easy Bible searches.) Pastor George gave an inspiring message which people were talking about afterwards. We shared Communion as the highlight of our service.

The kids in Kids Church made slime, talking through how messy it is to be the body of Christ (represented by the glue), but how the Holy Spirit's love (represented by the activator which stiffens up the glue) pulls us together, and how the use of our spiritual gifts (represented by the shaving cream which makes the slime elastic) contributes to the well-being of the congregation.

And then we ate together—a feast supplied by generous hearts and hands.

It was a heart-filled Homecoming celebration, as many of us did "Come home again to ABC."

But the song behind our youth skit has a much deeper meaning, and a deeper invitation. The song is about coming "Home" to Jesus, instead of running away; instead of running in circles. When we come home to him, Jesus gives our hearts peace and our minds rest. "Everything changed when I came running home," the singer sings. And I saw in my mind's eye and felt in my soul, the invitation of Jesus and my response, captured in music and in words.

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The truth is, we were sharing that message with mostly people who had already answered Jesus' call/invitation—who had already come home to him. And I thought about the people outside our walls who haven't yet come home. More than ever, in a time where social media alienates human connection, where people pay more attention to their screens than to each other, "home" has a powerful pull. Can we find a way to tell some people outside of our walls about Running Home? Maybe about a time when we ran away from home? Maybe about what 'Home with Jesus' means to us, about how we have experienced Jesus? Can you join me in praying that God will provide an opportunity this week to talk about Jesus?

We want ABC to be a home for our surrounding community. After all, everybody needs a home.

Pastor Connie Larson DeVaughn