Sunday, June 21, 2026

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

Photo by James Gardner

JUNETEENTH

FREEDOM DAY

Happy
Father's Day

Our dear friends Sandy, Jennifer, and Luis (also Nelson!)

Happy Birthday!

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
The Lord bless and keep you.
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.

THE BOOK of
REVELATION

Opening Prayer

Eternal God,

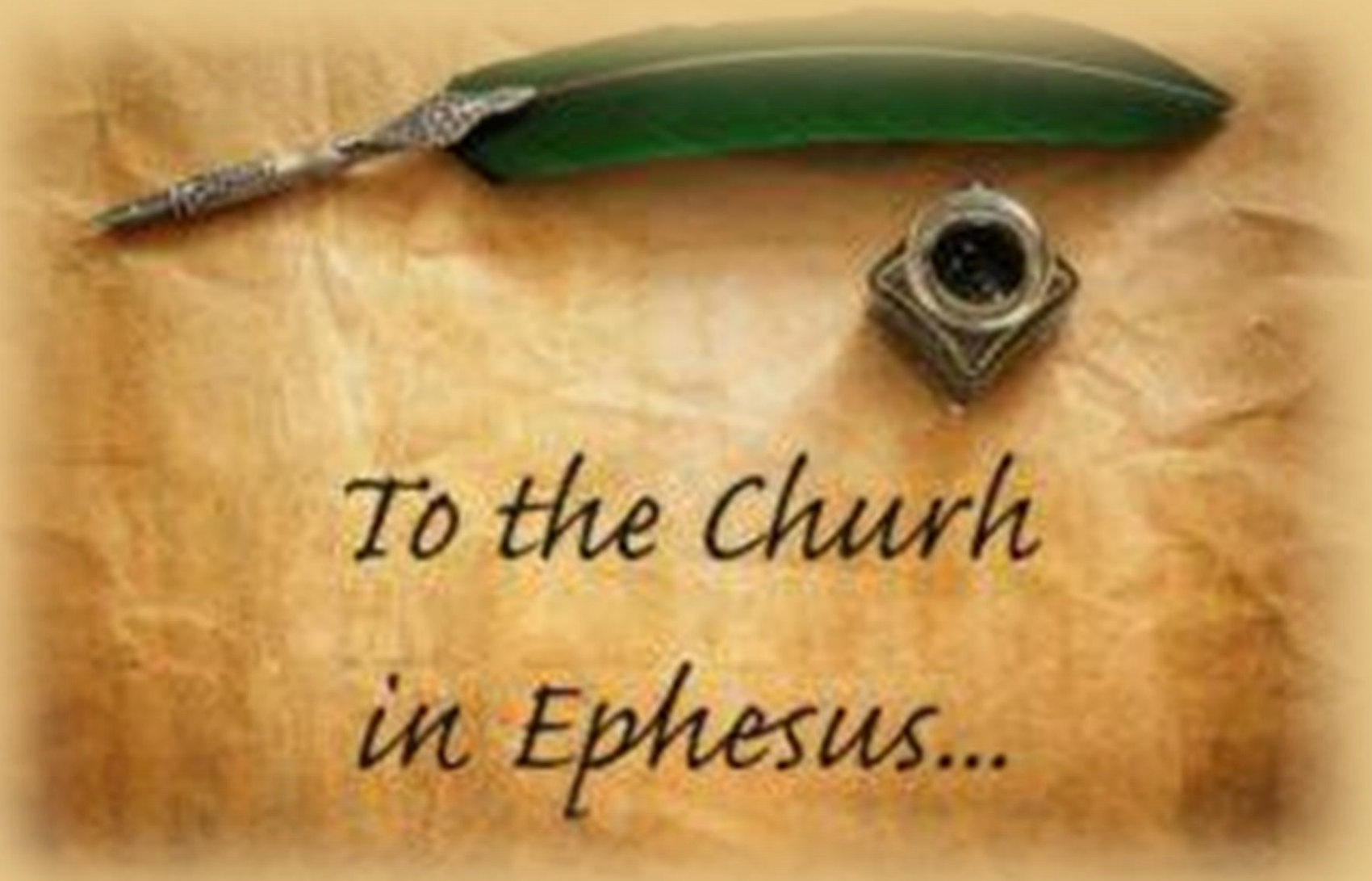
We come today to explore the message that Your Son Jesus Christ gave to John on the island of Patmos. This Christ's message to the faithful through John is filled with vivid imagery that is sometimes difficult for us to grasp. And so we ask that You guide us in our study, that with the help of the Holy Spirit and with insights from theologians, we may come to fully appreciate the core message that *Jesus is gonna win.* **Amen**

ἀποκάλυψις

apokalypsis

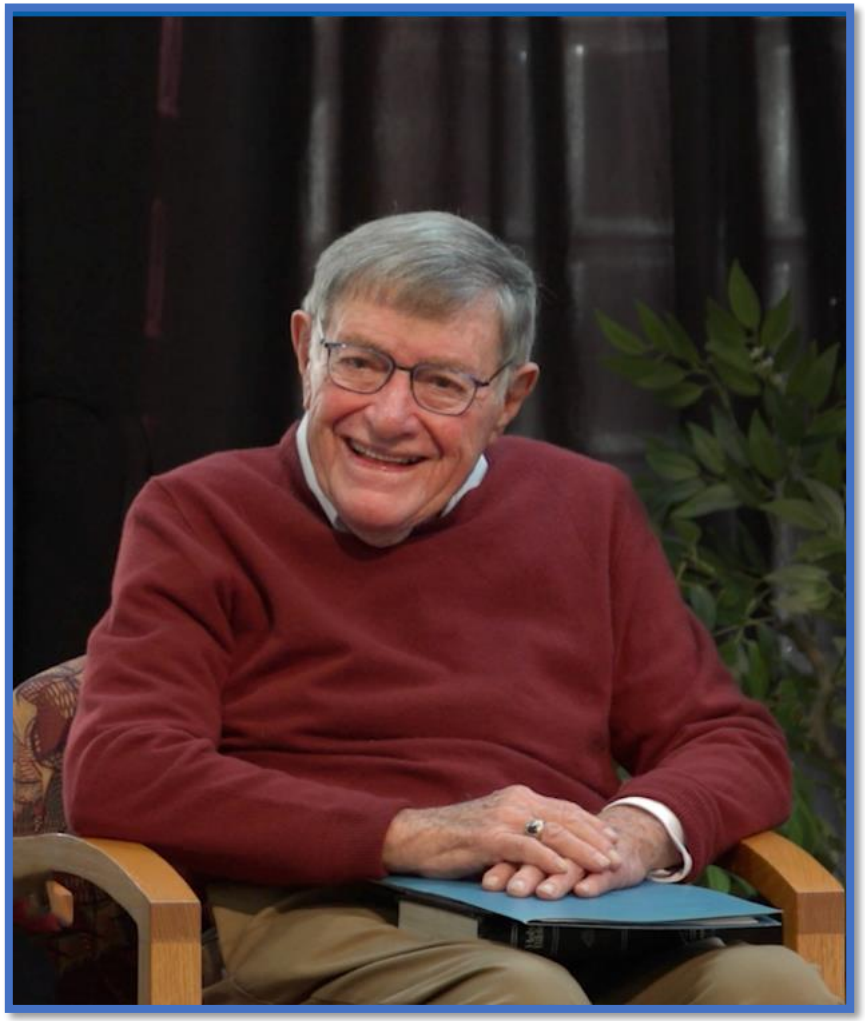
Literal translation:

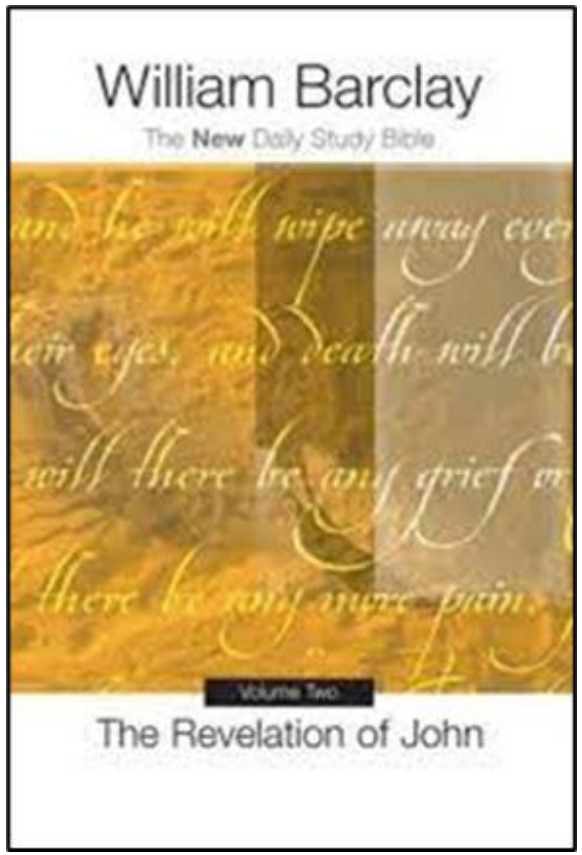
- an uncovering
- a lifting of the veil
- a revelation


To the Churh
in Ephesus...

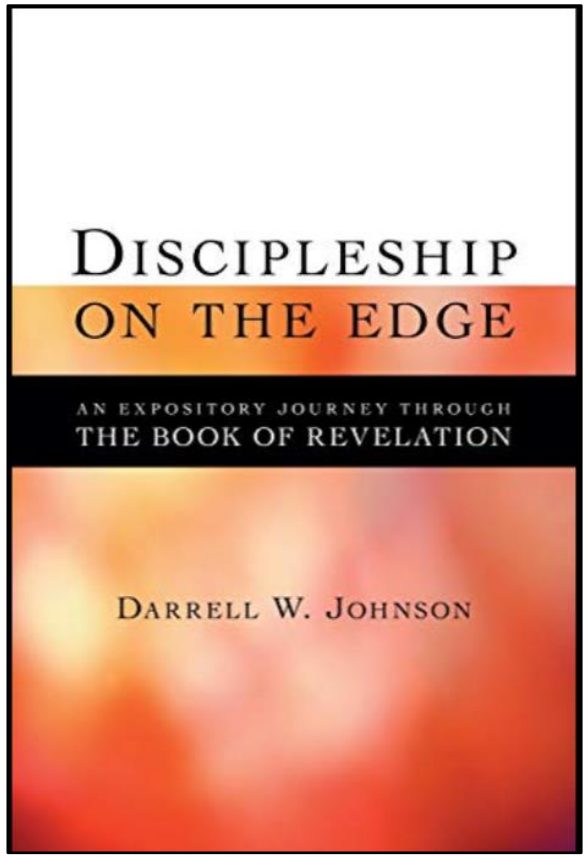
modern day
TURKEY
Pergamos
Smyrna
Ephesus
Thyatira
Sardis
Philadelphia
Laodicea

Rev. Dr. Earl Palmer was pastor of **Union Church of Manila,** taught at Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines, and wrote over 20 books.





Rev. Dr. William Barclay was a world-renowned New Testament scholar. He wrote more than 50 books including his classic 17 book series on the New Testament, *The Daily Bible Study*.



Rev. Dr. Darrell W. Johnson has been pastor of churches in the United States, the Philippines, and Canada, and is on the faculty at Regent College (Seminary) in Vancouver, Canada.

Cry of My Heart TFWS 2165

It is the cry of my heart to follow You

It is the cry of my heart to be close to You

It is the cry of my heart to follow

All of the days of my life.

Teach me Your holy ways, oh Lord,
So I can walk in Your truth.
Teach me Your holy ways, oh Lord,
And make me wholly devoted to You.

Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that You do.
Open my heart up more and more
And make me wholly devoted to You.

How many times does the word LOVE appear in the writings of John?

Gospel of John	39
1,2,3 John	34
Revelations	8

81 times!

Responsive Reading: 1 John 4: 7-12, 16

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

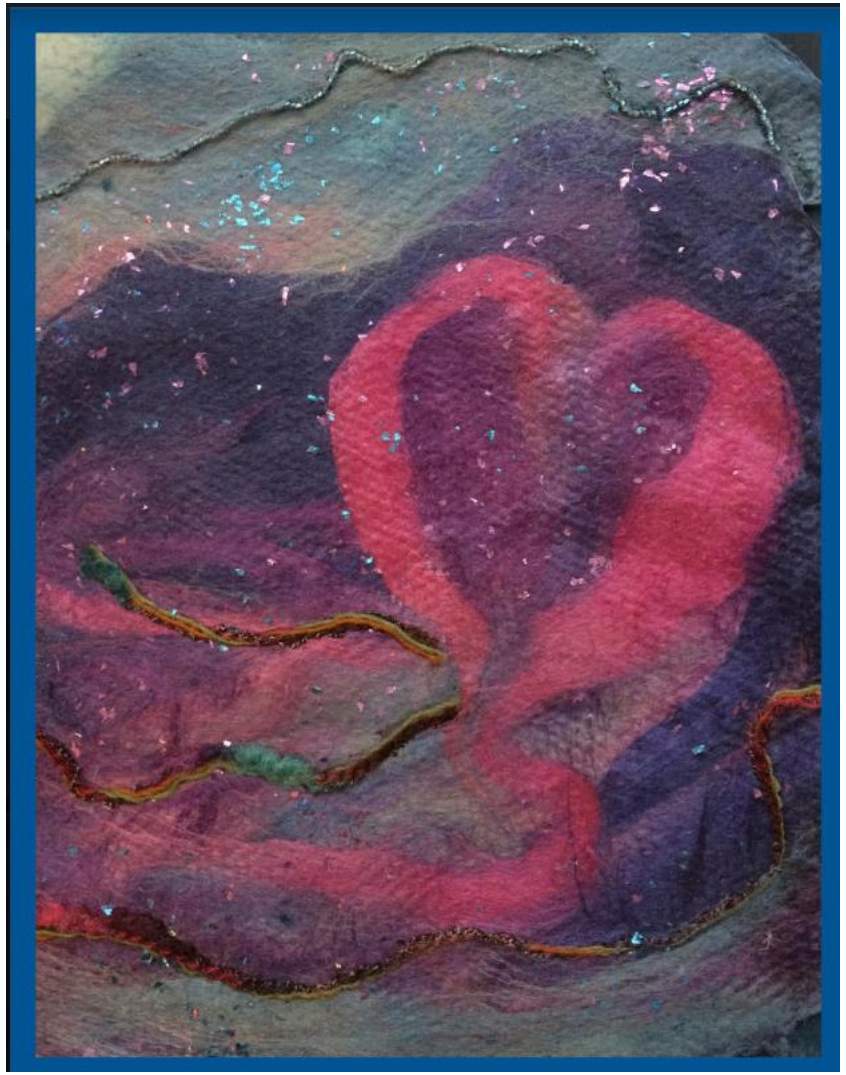
This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us…

Art by Sue Carroll

No one has ever see God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them.



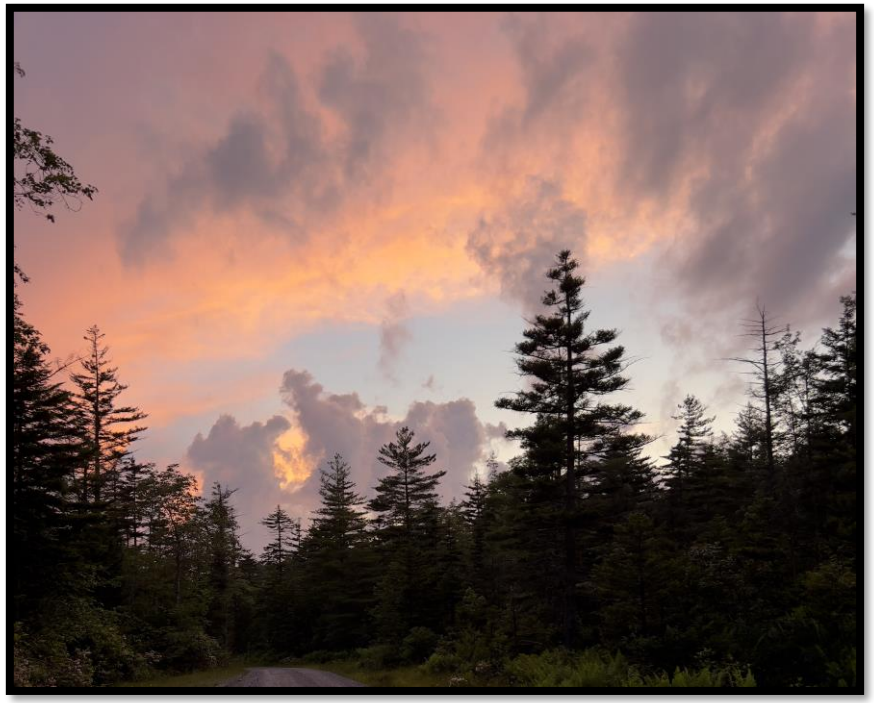
Art by Sue Carroll

TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

Revelations 2:1-7

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.



I know your deeds, your hard work and your patience.

I know that you cannot bear those who are evil, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them liars.

You have persevered and have endured hardships

for my name, and have not become weary.

Nevertheless, I hold this against you:

You have left your first love.

Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Nevertheless, I hold this against you:

You have left your first love.

PLUS SIDE:

- I know your deeds.
- I know your hard work.
- I know your perseverance.
- I know that you cannot bear those who are evil.
- I know that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to false.

Nevertheless, I hold this against you:

You have left your first love.

Churchianity or Christianity?

GOD IS LOVE.

HOW MANY ANGELS CAN DANCE ON THE HEAD OF A PIN?

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace —TFWS 2171

Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light,

O, Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace:
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Community Prayer

Eternal God,

Help us regain our first love for You. We have allowed our love to grow faint as we focused on other things that seemed important at the time. In the process, we didn't notice that our love for you was no longer as it was at first.

Help us regain our first love for You. We have allowed other things to cloud over our initial enthusiasm and joy. Father, lead us back to the beginning, when our love was so strong.

Lord, we choose today to passionately seek what we have lost: the love we had for you at the beginning. Help us then keep and honor our first love. ***Amen.***

Offering and Doxology
UM Hymnal 95

We give thanks for this wonderful,
generous community of faith.

Doxology - UM Hymnal 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Art by Sue Carroll

Benediction