



on behalf of the hungry nor satisfied the needs of the oppressed. As we repent before you, God Who Sees Us, let our light rise in the darkness, and allow our night to become like the noonday. Guide us, O Lord always; and satisfy our needs in a sun-scorched land, and strengthen our frame. Make us like unto a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail, and let us rebuild the ancient ruins and raise up the age-old foundations; then we will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. In the Name of Jesus, amen. (Based on Is. 58:9-12, NIV)

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Beloved, hear the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Hallelujah! Amen!

### **\* GLORIA PATRI**

**Blue Hymnal #579**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw>

### **\* SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Peace be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: As God's forgiven people, share the peace of Christ with each other (from your seat please).

**Affirmation:** You are loved, and you are valued!

**Affirmation Internalized:** I am loved and I am valued!

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

God Is Always with You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWIwdDtuwGU>

## **Hear the Word of God**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

God who sees all, allow us by your Spirit to see what your Word has to say to us today. Amen.

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**John 2:1-12**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%202%3A1-12&version=NIV>

### **WISDOM LITERATURE**

**Proverbs 2:1-8**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+2%3A1-8&version=NIV>

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"The Power And The Glory"**

**Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E8Vf5LMnhs>

## NEW TESTAMENT READING II

John 2:13-25

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+2%3A13-25&version=NIV>

## WISDOM LITERATURE II

Proverbs 2:9-22

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+2%3A9-22&version=NIV>

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

**"El Ro-I, God Sees Me"  
Genesis 16:13-14**

**Dr. Carlos Baladez**

"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered."

Dysfunctional families. Have you ever seen one? Do you come from one? Are you living in one now?

Don't despair. All families have some type of dysfunction in them. That is the norm. What else can you expect from perfectly imperfect people? We have motives, attitudes, intentions, dreams, plots, agendas, and motivations. We contend with our dreams at the expense of others. We jockey for positions, titles, accolades, recognitions, awards, rank, and such. Then there is the persona we carefully craft so others can like us, accept us, and affirm us. Oh, don't forget the shadow side of our personality. That part of us that we wish to keep in hiding so people won't reject us, dislike, misunderstand us, or even hate us.

Then we deal with peer pressures to look a certain way, dress in a certain manner, behave a certain way, and of course, hang out with the right people. People who act like us, look like us, believe like us, and walk like us. We seek out opinions that affirm and confirm our own beliefs. All the while being blind to sin, the world, satan, and our own flesh. Is it any wonder we all live in dysfunctional families? But at least, in Christ, we come to see all of these shortcomings and find in him a love that accepts us just the way we are, and a greater love inviting us to a transformation to have Christ formed in us. But, I'm getting ahead of myself.

Let us go back to our text which occurred more than four thousand years ago. It is in the time of the Patriarchs. Actually in the time of Abram. God had appeared to him and let him know that he would have an heir from his own body. At this point, he and his wife Sarai were up in years. As time passed and the promise would not come, Sarai had a brilliant idea and Abram agreed. She suggested to Abram, "Why don't you go into my slave girl Hagar and let her conceive a son on my behalf." This was the new old idea of a surrogate mother. All but Hagar had a voice in this decision. So, Abram at the ripe old age of 84 agrees with Sarah and with her permission has a sexual encounter with the

young maiden, Hagar. I know, "What in the world was Sarai thinking? Well, Hagar conceives and starts to look down on the old barren Sarai. This attitude did not sit well with her. After all, she was the number one wife of Abram and no other woman was going to take her place. As can be expected, the sparks began to fly. Sarai blames Abram and he acts "the innocent one." Hey, it was your idea and besides, she is YOUR slave girl. Do with her as you please. You can almost hear Abe claiming his innocence saying, "I was just following orders." Sarai starts to treat Hagar harshly. The tensions rose so high Hagar could no longer tolerate the harassment. She decides to run away. Yep, run away through the desert. How far did she think she would get on foot out in the middle of this barren land? Fortunately, the Angel of the Lord finds her near a spring in the desert and asks her, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" And she responds, "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai." To which he tells her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count." He continues, "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

It is here, in her uttermost darkness, in her bitter despair, and in her poverty of spirit that she encounters the LORD who spoke to her! And she names him.

A theologian stated that this is the only instance in all of scripture where a human being names God instead of God revealing his name to the individual. Hagar, an Egyptian slave. A girl, who by the way, was considered chattel in those days. And a non-Jew to boot. "Three strikes and you are out," the saying goes. Well, it is to this outcast the creator of all humankind reveals himself. And she gets to name him. And she names him, "the God who sees me." She names him thus because she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

What strikes me the most is the casualness of this conversation. There is no mention of her fearing. There is no, "Do not fear," mentioned here. There is only a natural dialogue between Creator and creature.

As you will notice, this name for God was birthed from a personal encounter with God. Kathy Troccoli sings a song titled, "*I Call Him Love*." Please make the time to listen to this song. I provide you with the link for your convenience. Copy and paste into your browser: <https://genius.com/Kathy-troccoli-i-call-him-love-lyrics>

You see, a personal encounter with our Creator can also lead us to name God. After you have listened to the song, see what name you give the God who sees YOU! This God not only sees us, but he also feeds us, cares for us, defends us, saves us, forgives us, accepts us, and makes us truly happy!

Ah, the God who saw Hagar by the spring in the desert is the same one who sees you and me today, right here, right now. Even if we come from a dysfunctional family and we are considered an outcast by the ruling society where our voices are diminished, overruled, or denied completely we can be assured that our Creator Sees Us.

Call out to the one who Sees YOU! Worship him now, here, today, and give him a name by which he is known to you.

Praise Be to God forevermore, for God is worthy! Amen.

\* **HYMN**                    **"God You Spin The Whirling Planets"**                    **Blue Hymnal #285**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rj5wF4j2q9E>

### **Respond in Love and Service**

\* **This we believe**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

### **PRAYERS AND HYMN OF INTERCESSION**

God who sees us, in your name we pray.

**God, see our needs and provide according to your abundant love for us.**

For our nation, God.

**God, see our needs and provide according to your abundant love for us.**

For our families, God.

**God, see our needs and provide according to your abundant love for us.**

For our neighbors, God.

**God, see our needs and provide according to your abundant love for us.**

For those in need, God.

**God, see our needs and provide according to your abundant love for us.**

For the sick, God.

**God, see our needs and provide according to your abundant love for us.**

For the elderly and the young, God.

**God, see our needs and provide according to your abundant love for us.**

For our planet, God.

**God, see our needs and provide according to your abundant love for us.**

For the governments of this world, God.

**God, see our needs and provide according to your abundant love for us.**

**Thank you Almighty Lord God, amen.**

**\*HYMN FOR OUR NATION "Heal Our Land" Red Hymnal #800**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm\\_rA54EGw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm_rA54EGw)

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

"Our Father which 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen"

### **CHORAL AMEN**

**Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=976gBjKgEjY>

### **PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Please, continue to support the life and work of Crestholme. You can mail your tithes, pledges, and offerings to...

CPC  
PO Box 23919.  
SA TX 78223-0901

Or you can save them and gather them until we meet again. Thank you!

### **\* DOXOLOGY**

**Blue Hymnal # 592**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uyg6-htOtHU>

### **\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Almighty God who sees us, the give you thanks through these offerings. We also bring ourselves as gifts to you. We do all this out of a love for you. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

**\* CLOSING HYMN "Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound" Blue Hymnal**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaJhnJwsPNM>

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**\* BENEDICTION**

The God who sees you, sees you no matter the darkness which surrounds. In your darkness you will see his light. Go and share the good news which has been freely given to you and give witness to the God who sees you and neighbor. The Grace of the Son, the Love of the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit goes with you. Amen.

**\* POSTLUDE**

**The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service**

**Next Sunday, Dr. Baladez will continue with our sermon series, "Knowing God by Name."**

