

Prayer?

Please list your prayer requests with detailed information of people in need. Thank you!

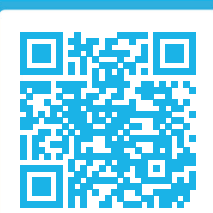
NEW TO ECBC?

For more information email info@eastcooperbaptist.com

First Time Guest?

We'd love to get to know you!

SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



843.856.3222 x PRAY (7729)
prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com

Sermon Notes.

Speaker: Leland Brown, Discipleship Pastor

Message: God's Kindness in Our Bitterness

Text: Ruth 1:1-22

"In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!' Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. 'No, we will return with you to your people.' But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me.' Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

And she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.'

And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women

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Sermon Notes.

(continued)

said, 'Is this Naomi?' She said to them, 'Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?'

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

MAIN IDEA:

God is faithful and kind to His people in their experience of emptiness and bitterness.

(v. 1-5) Legacy in Loss

"What do we do when Mercy is no longer presented to us as things getting better? When our life in Christ presents itself to us as things getting worse, things getting more disturbing, more revealing, more frightening? When our life in Christ presents itself to us as scary questions and complete bewilderment? What was I to make of the Mercy offered in the gospel, Christ's enormous and enigmatic offer of Himself—if it was not solutions to problems, answers to questions, cures for diseases, healing for illnesses? Better thoughts for worse thoughts? Good feelings for bad feelings?"

(v. 6-18) Faithfulness in Hopelessness

(v.19-22) Kindness in Bitterness

TWO TAKEAWAYS:

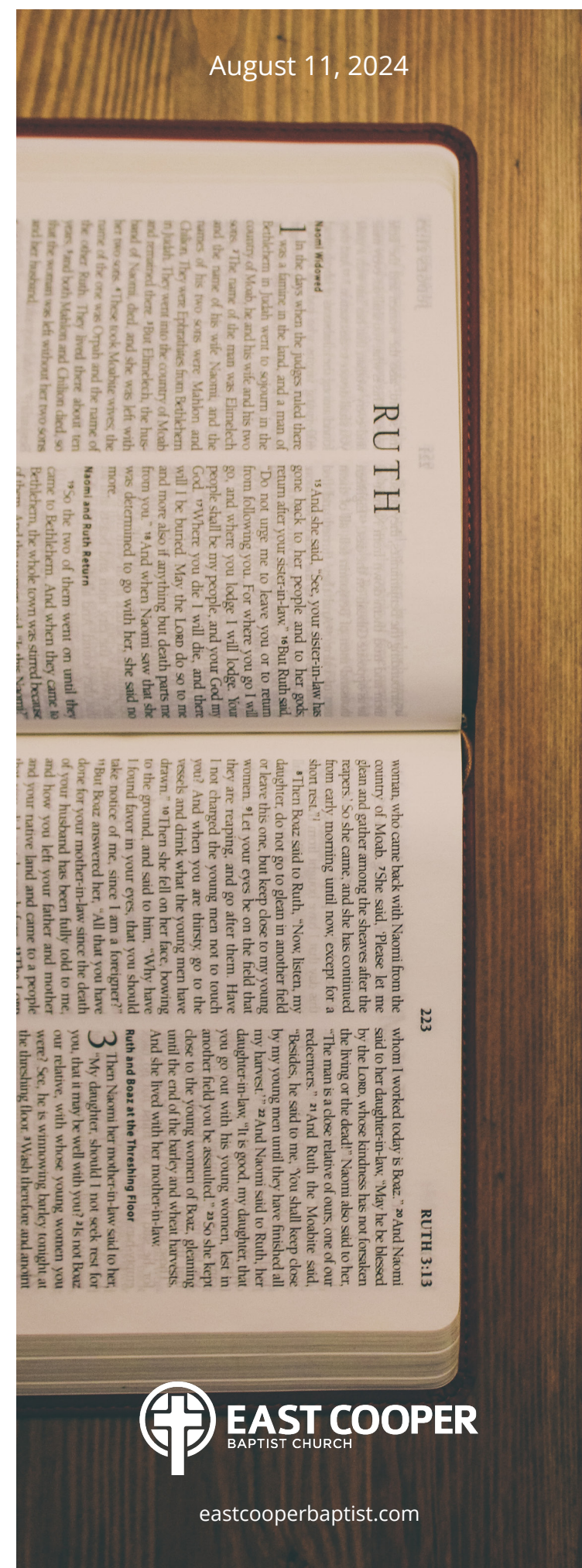
1. God's ways are hidden.

"Who can love to walk in the dark? But providence doth often so dispose." Oliver Cromwell

2. Our hope is stable.

Listen to sermons online at eastcooperbaptist.com/sermons

August 11, 2024



EAST COOPER
BAPTIST CHURCH

eastcooperbaptist.com



Welcome.

We're glad you are here to worship with us. If you are new to East Cooper Baptist, we would love to meet you. Please stop anyone with a name-tag and let us answer any questions you may have. Thanks for being our guest.

Buster Brown, Senior Pastor
busterb@eastcooperbaptist.com | 843.856.3222 x2006

Traditional Worship and Classes
Sanctuary 9:30am & 11:00am
Contemporary Worship and Classes
Worship Center 9:30am & 11:00am

Ways to Give.

Giving is part of our worship to God. Through your faithful giving, God continues to change lives here in our area and around the world.



Give in-person by dropping your gift in any giving box located throughout the church.

Give online by visiting our website at: eastcooperbaptist.com/give.



Give via text by texting the word "GIVE" to 843-202-4848.

Get to Know.

English Preston



KIDS MINISTRY DIRECTOR ON STAFF

English is from Charleston, SC. Although she grew up hearing the gospel, forgiveness, and grace were concepts she could not grasp. After years of hiding from God in shame and a few deep life circumstances, English surrendered her life to Jesus when she was 23. She joined the ECBC staff in 2018. English is married to David and they have three children, Vivian, Nathanael, and Alistair. She loves family movie nights and running.

GET CONNECTED



Worship

Engage in a Worship Service Weekly

Make a fundamental commitment to participate, engage in, and sing in a worship service each week.
eastcooperbaptist.com/worship



Groups

Connect in a Group Consistently

We have a lot of groups at East Cooper. We have community groups, which are for everyone, and we have specialized groups based on your stage of life and particular season you are in.
eastcooperbaptist.com/groups



Serve

Serve on a Team Monthly

We believe that every Christian needs tangible places to serve others. We have teams that serve the body on Sundays and the community on other days.
eastcooperbaptist.com/serve



Classes

Take a Class Routinely

Our classes are designed to help you grow in your understanding and ability to lead others.
eastcooperbaptist.com/classes

Upcoming.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY FELLOWSHIP

We are planning a church wide fellowship for East Cooper's 50th Anniversary on **August 25!** We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs beginning at 4:00pm. Please RSVP by **August 21.**

REGISTER ONLINE.



eastcooperbaptist.com/events

COMBINED SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY

We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary by having combined services at 9:30 and 11:00am in the Sanctuary on **August 25.** Classes and Kids Ministry will meet as normal.

SEE YOU THERE.



eastcooperbaptist.com/events

FOSTER & ADOPTION PANEL

If you have been considering participating in foster care, adoption, or are interested in other ways you can serve and impact vulnerable children, join us in B220-222 for a Q&A info session on **August 18 at 11:00.**

PLAN TO ATTEND.



eastcooperbaptist.com/serve

SERVE THE SOJOURNER

Engage the nations that God is bringing to the tri-county area through hospitality and care for the sojourner. We partner with Nations2Neighbors to serve and share the gospel with refugees in our area.

SIGN UP TODAY.



eastcooperbaptist.com/serve

Financial Update.

Giving Year-to-date \$ 6,279,119 (fiscal year: August 1, 2023-July 31, 2024)
Budget Required \$ 6,500,100

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First Time Guest?

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SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



Hello.

Please complete the perforated section and take to the Welcome Desk or place in any giving box located around the church.

I/We attended worship at:

9:30am 11:00am

I am a first time guest

Name

Spouse

Birthdate Spouse Birthdate

Address

City

State Zip

Mobile

Spouse Mobile

Email

Spouse Email

Preferred method of contact:

Call Text Email

Interested in the following:

- Become a Christian
- Join the Church
- Meet with a Pastor
- Subscribe to newsletter
- Other

