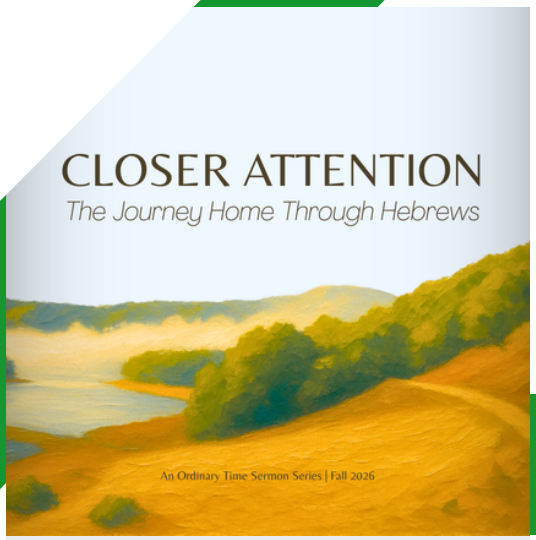


SERMON NOTES

November 15, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Restoring Worship"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Haggai 2:3-9
Hebrews 12:18-29
Matthew 7:24-27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you seek the presence of God? Are there parts of your life that you keep from God?
2. How do you define worship? Do you consider it transportive?
3. What gratitude practices do you have? Are there any habits you can add to your life?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

In this second-to-last sermon in our Hebrews series, Tim explores the question of how are you doing amid the world's shaking, while also presenting that God often allows that shaking to reveal what is truly unshakeable.

What Sin Did

Through our Old Testament reading and the first half of our Hebrews reading, we see the brokenness inherent in our fallen, sinful state. This brokenness amounts to a visceral reaction to God's presence, so much so that when God draws near to a fallen people, we cannot endure his presence. But, as people made for his presence, made in his image and likeness, we innately know that the inability to endure is not how we were made to be. Sin is an unseen power that forces us to see God differently from the truth--we find a substitute for God, put distance between him and us, and consequently feel full of dread at the mere thought of our Lord. Through Scripture, through prayer, through grace, we know the truth is that God is generous, that when we see him as he truly is, we have a desire to be in his presence, and that we can surrender our very selves. What sin did is prevent us from fully surrendering to God by warping our vision of who he truly is.

What Worship Is

After the diagnosis of what sin did, we see the remedy in Hebrews when the author addresses the audience at "but you" in verse 22, reminding them of their new identity in Christ and how they see something different from what their Jewish ancestors did. What they see is the true Mt. Zion, compared to Mt. Sinai, an implicit allusion to the fallen history and the events at the foot of Sinai with the golden calf, all the way back to the events of Genesis 3. With this reminder of the true Mt. Zion, the author of Hebrews exhorts the readers to not turn back to their old lives, even if the world shakes. All of the events of their previous lives have led them to where they are right now, which ultimately is towards their belief in Jesus and their eternal home with him. We too see the true Mt. Zion, the throne of God, when we worship. Verses 22-24 show how worship is transportive and where it takes us--to where angels worship the Lord in eternal song in a festal gathering, where the firstborn of faith and the martyrs reside, where the true judge sits. This transportive quality of worship is countercultural in our disenchanted, modern world, but we know from our participation in worship that the transportation is true.

What We Do Offer

If sin makes us allergic to God but worship draws us near to him, then how is that gap first bridged? There is no forgiveness of sin without blood. If there is no forgiveness, we can't get into the presence of God, and without the presence of God we stay twisted. We may find ourselves asking, what blood? Hebrews again presents an Old and New Testament dichotomy, by citing that blood better than Abel's speaks a better word. Abel's blood cries for justice, but Jesus's blood, the true mediator, cries for forgiveness. In light of the eternal, cosmic forgiveness Jesus offers through the cross, there is only one response: gratitude. This kind of gratitude isn't built on what's going on around us, but what is going on inside of us through Jesus and grace acting deep within our souls, so deep and festal that are greater than any sorrow or pain.

God is speaking to you, inviting you in, asking for all of you in surrender as the world shakes, so that you can be forgiven and be part of the joyful, festal, unshakeable life that only he provides.