Reader:

Father, you are our provider, sustainer, and generous giver of all good gifts we can enjoy. Your Son you did not spare, but him you gave.

Congregation: May we live generously in the light of your generosity.

Reader:

Jesus, for our sake you stepped down from glory and descended to plight. You were rich, but for our sake, you became poor. You laid down your life, so that we may live.

Congregation: May we follow your example, knowing it is more blessed to give than to receive.

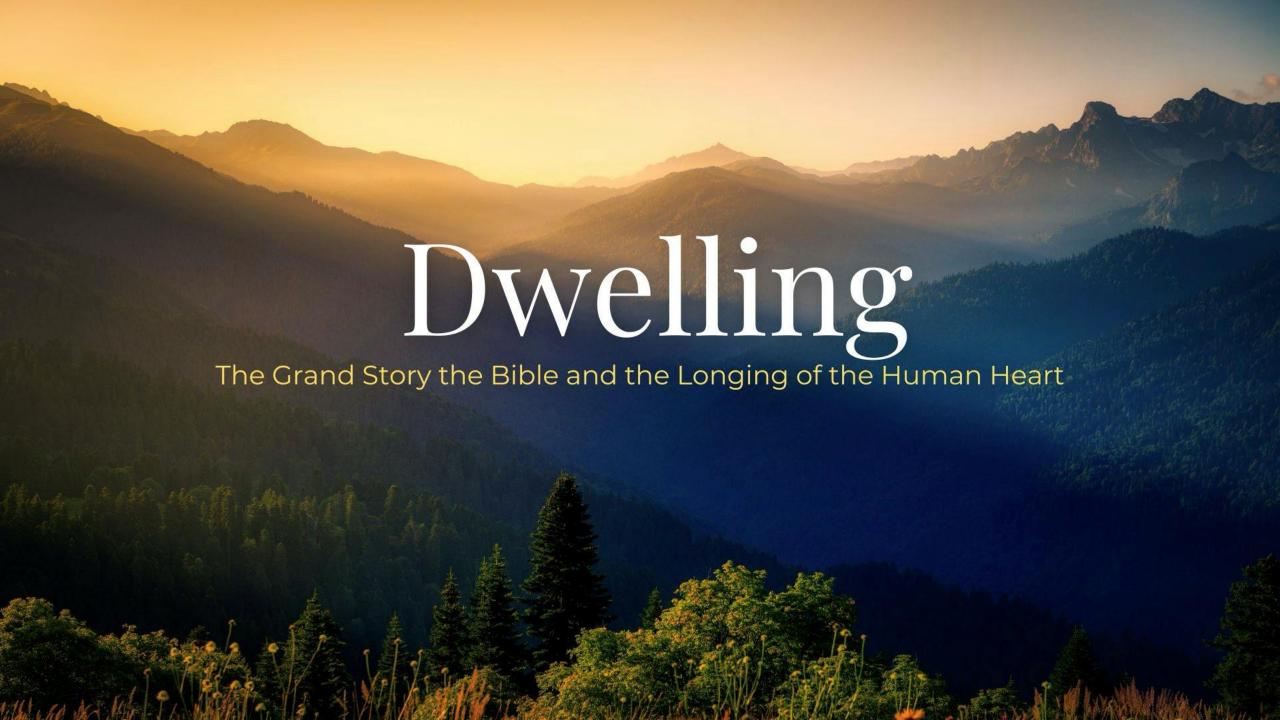
Reader:

pirit of the Living God, who empowers us with new, holy desires and power from on high to live the Kingdom life in the present age.

Congregation: May we walk in step with you, eager to share, eager to give, eager to serve. The Council | Charged with <u>advising</u> on the finances, as well as financial <u>accountability</u>.

The Elders | Charged with the care of the <u>spiritual</u> <u>health</u> and <u>growth in maturity</u> - into the likeness of Jesus - for the church community.

The Deacons | Charged with identifying the needs of the community (both Church community and local community) and mobilizing the Church to meet those needs.



The Beginning | Garden of God Mission in Gen. 1-2

The Middle | Temple Vision in Ezekiel 47

The End | New Creation Anticipation in Rev. 22

In the beginning God had planted a garden for humanity to live in (Gen 2:8). In the end he will give them a city. In the New Jerusalem the blessings of paradise will be restored, but the New Jerusalem is more than paradise regained. As a city it fulfills humanity's desire to build out of nature à human place of human culture and community.

- Richard Bauckham

Living with Hope

"this new creation cannot be achieved by human effort or even prayer, for it is foreshadowed now only by grace, and it will come in fullness only in God's good time and after God's final defeat of all the powers arrayed against both God and humanity: evil, Empire and its culture of death, and death itself."

- Michael J. Gorman

Living with Hope

Being Extenders of Hope



SURPRISED BY HOPE



Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church

N. T. WRIGHT