A background image showing a microscopic view of plant cells, likely from a leaf, with a blue color cast. The cells are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some cells showing prominent chloroplasts. The image is slightly out of focus, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. A teal-colored rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the title and date information.

The Possibilities of Offensively Bold Prayer

October 20, 2019

WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

House of Prayer

- A praying church will never be a problem-free church; a praying person will never be a problem-free person
- God is calling us to be a church and a people who pray through our problems straight into God's purposes and promises

Ezekiel 12:21-23

The word of the Lord came to me: ²² “Son of man, what is this proverb you have in the land of Israel: ‘The days go by and every vision comes to nothing’? ²³ Say to them, ‘This is what the sovereign Lord says: I am going to put an end to this proverb, and they will no longer quote it in Israel.’”

Putting an End to Your Proverb

- Maybe you have created your own pessimistic proverb because of many unanswered prayers
- Whatever proverb you have created, God says to you, “I am going to put an end to this proverb!”

A Beautiful Impudence

- **Luke 11:8b** NEW LIVING TRANSLATION
“...if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.”
- ANAIDEIA in the original language means impudence
- IMPUDENCE: “The quality of being offensively bold.” [*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 4th Ed.]

Luke 18:4-5

The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, “I don’t fear God or care about people, ⁵ but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!”

Our Offensive Boldness

- Jesus is inviting us to be sons and daughters who, when it comes to prayer, possess an offensive boldness
- Offensive boldness is not presumption, nor is it accompanied by a sense of entitlement
- This offensive boldness comes from the fact that we are sons and daughters of a good, good Father who's determined to be good to us

Do Not Give Up!

- “According to Jesus, by far the most important thing about praying is to keep at it. ... Be importunate, Jesus says—not, one assumes, because you have to beat a path to God’s door before he’ll open it, but because until you beat the path maybe there’s no way of getting to *your door*.” [Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC* (San Francisco: Harper), ©1973, pp. 70-71]
- **Luke 18:1** NEW LIVING TRANSLATION
“One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.”

Do Not Give Up!

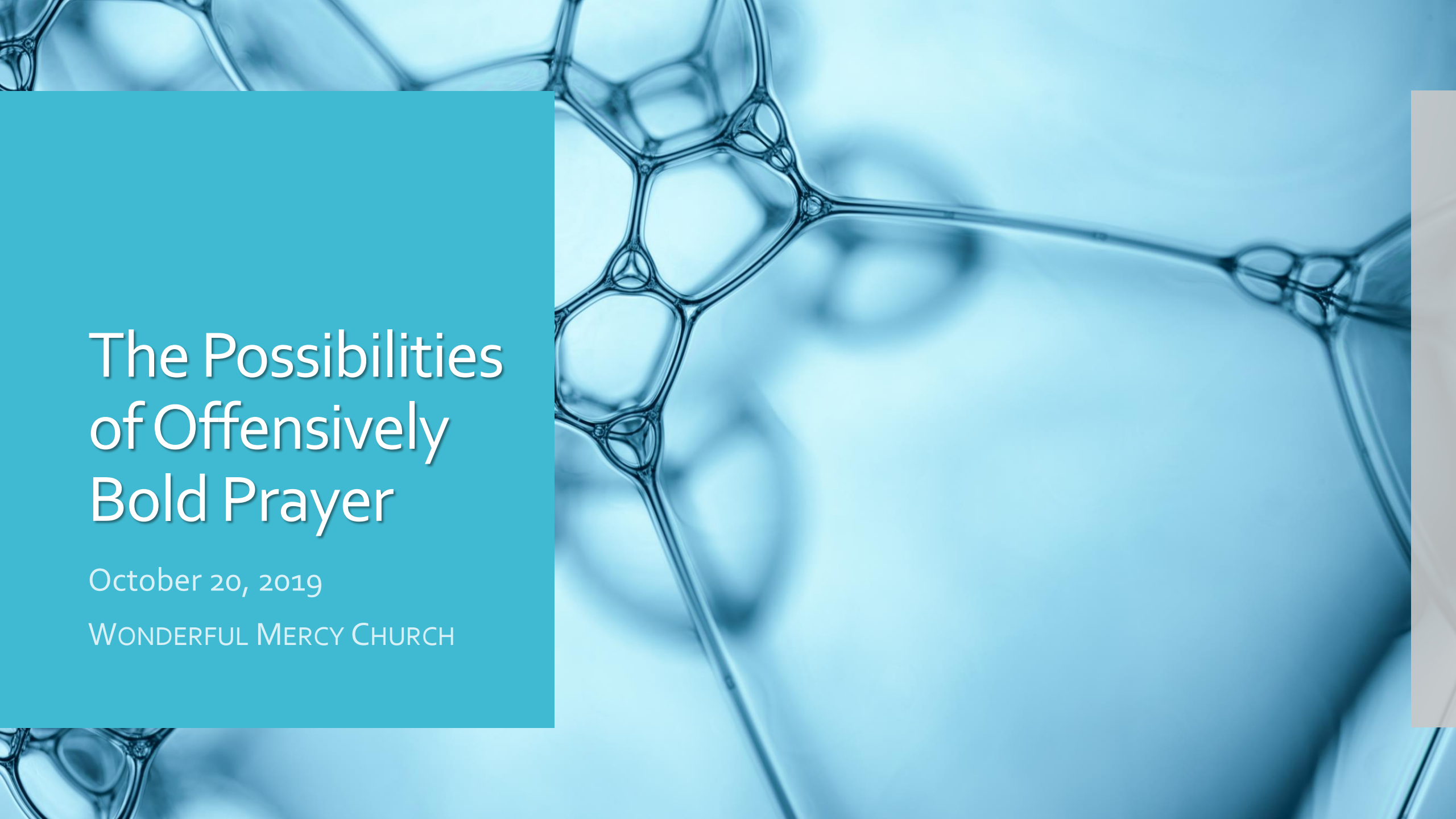
- “... the Christian’s prayer must be characterized by a shameless disregard of God’s apparent indifference.” [The Popular Commentary of the Bible, NT Vol. 1.]
- “The Greek text has an unusual verb that means ‘ever tapping,’ signifying one who keeps knocking on the door of heaven until he receives what he came for.” [Dr. Brian Simmonds, *The Passion Bible* textual note on Luke 18:7]
- **Luke 11:9** NEW LIVING TRANSLATION
“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”

Do Not Give Up!

- Prayer is not a one and done venture
- It's offensively bold, persistent, and stubborn
- Cf. Paul: "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17)

Our Response

- Step 1: pray on your own about something you've (almost) given up on
- Step 2: Congregationally we'll pray for us as a church to be offensively bold pray-ers

A background image showing a microscopic view of plant cells, likely from a leaf, with clear cell walls and internal structures. The image is in shades of blue and white, with a teal overlay on the left side.

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