

## Celebrating Freedom of Religion

Yesterday we celebrated the birth of our nation, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I am sure the signers of the Declaration of Independence would be amazed at America today. We are certainly not perfect, as our headlines tell us every day. Yet we have got one thing right, at least for now, the freedom to worship as we see fit without any government authority telling us what to believe or how to worship.

Few realize this, but studies show that Christians are more persecuted than any other faith group in the world. Today, our brothers and sisters in Christ in places like the Middle East, China, Pakistan, and North Korea feared for their lives as they gathered to worship, whether in person or online. None of us who gathered here today or watching at home even thought about that. Why? We live in America, the land of the free.

That is something to be thankful for! As we approach our time of offering, I thought of Psalm 107:21-22 that says, "Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! And *let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving*, and declare His works with rejoicing." Let's do that this morning with our offering. Let's give as an act of thanksgiving, celebrating our freedom of religion.

Remember, every gift you give today helps us continue our life-changing work! We have multiple ways by which you can give. Chose the best platform now as you celebrate your Freedom of Religion!

