

## Précis of Rev. Victor Shepherd's sermon "The Aaronic Blessing"

July 21, May 19

The sermon teased apart the meaning of the often heard benediction "the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his confidence upon you and give you peace." Understanding of this benediction was enriched by explanations from the Hebrew Bible of the meaning of the word blessing and how the blessing is bestowed. The sermon provided a description of God's face and how it relates to God's heart. Finally, the result of this blessing - the Lord will lift up his countenance upon us to give us peace - was explained. Although, it is hard to understand peace in the midst of a chaotic world, the vision of the future is revealed in Revelation as the coming of the kingdom of God and creation healed