

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

June 14, 2020

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

Organ Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

***Call to Worship** Bob Clum

Jesus Christ summons us to answer God's call of mercy.

Christ gathers us and gives us power to be healed and to heal,

to be forgiven and to forgive,

to be freed from sin and to set others free,

to tell one another and the world:

God's presence is at hand. Let us worship God.

***Hymn** PH 139 "Come Thou Almighty King"

1 Come, thou Almighty King,

Help us thy name to sing,

Help us to praise.

Father, all glorious,

O'er all victorious,

Come and reign over us,

Ancient of Days.

3 Come, Holy Comforter,

Thy sacred witness bear

in this glad hour.

Thou who almighty art,

Now rule in ev'ry heart,

And ne'er from us depart,

Spirit of power.

2 Come, thou Incarnate Word,

Gird on thy mighty sword,

Scatter thy foes.

Let thine almighty aid

Our sure defense be made,

Our souls on thee be stayed;

Thy wonders show.

4 To the great One in Three

Eternal praises be,

Hence evermore.

His sov'reign majesty

May we in glory see,

And to eternity

Love and adore.

***Call to Confession**

The mystery of God brings the promise of life, but we doubt the Spirit's power to overcome death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son, reveals that nothing is impossible with God. Let us confess our sin and receive new life.

***Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Triune God, Holy Three, Holy One, we confess that we do not know how to look for you. We do not sense your nearness, and if there are angels among us, we are unaware. We do not show the hospitality to strangers that Abraham showed to you. We do not trust that our hardships can be transformed by your Spirit. O Covenant-keeper, forgive us. Let us laugh with joy because your grace has made peace among us. Send us out with this good news so that others will also receive your blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Christ gave his life to save us from the wrath of God. Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Trust the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

***Passing the Peace**

Rather than going around the room and shaking hands, for the Passing of the Peace, turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— “The peace of Christ be with you”

***Gloria Patri (PH 579)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Christ gave his life to save us from the wrath of God. Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Trust the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

First Reading Psalm 91:1-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Special Music “Goin’ Home” Dvorak, Susan Thomas, piano

Second Reading Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to

disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Children's Sermon Pastor Eric

SERMON "Navigating Through Periods of Anxiety"

Psalm 91:1-16

- The Golden Gate Bridge, located at the entrance of San Francisco Bay, is one of the largest and most spectacular suspension bridges in the world, spanning 8,981 feet through midair. When this world-famous bridge was being constructed, several workmen lost their lives, falling from precariously high positions, two hundred feet above the waters. Consequently, the work was constantly behind schedule. That is, until someone hit upon the idea of building a safety net directly under the construction area. Then, with such security in place, any workman who fell would not tumble to his death but would be caught by the net.
- So a giant safety net was made of stout, sturdy cord and swung under the construction work—the first time in the history of major construction that such a net was used. The cost for the net was one hundred thousand dollars, a staggering figure in those post-depression years. But the effect was both immediate and noticeable. The work suddenly proceeded at a much faster rate because the workmen knew that if they did slip, the net would catch them and their lives would be spared.
- This morning, we are going to be looking at a Psalm that describes how God becomes our safety net during times of fear, Covid-19, or anxiety.
- This beautiful Psalm tells us how to navigate ourselves in the midst of a pandemic, job loss, protests and riots, police reform, and the possibility of a resurgence of the Corona virus.

In periods of Anxiety

1. Faith in a Powerful God

*1 You who live in the shelter of the **Most High**, who abide in the shadow of the **Almighty**, 2 will say to the **LORD**, "My refuge and my fortress; my **God**, in whom I trust."*

- In the midst of mounting dangers for the psalmist, the first thing he does is declare his personal trust or faith in God.
- Notice how the writer focuses on the divine character of God using the 4 names of God:
 - Most High (El Elyon) emphasizes God's possession of Heaven and earth. God owns everything. This word emphasizes His strength, supremacy, sovereignty.
 - Almighty (El Shaddai) pictures God as the active, eternal, the self-sufficient and self-existent One. Another aspect of this title for God is that God is a giving God. He is the one who supplies all your needs.
 - Jehovah - (LORD), This is the great name for God, YHWH. The name was so sacred, people refused to say it out of respect. This is the God who exists because

He exists. The I AM, the immutable, unchangeable One. This name is tied to the promise of God's covenant faithfulness to His people.

- God (Elohim) the strong one, mighty leader, supreme deity that is linked to creation. Elohim is creator with all the power that exists in Himself.
- When the writer is using these words to describe God, he is demonstrating faith in the full nature, the full strength, the full protection, and the full reliability of God.
- How does a person know so much about God?
- Notice that the psalmist is NOT saying that when things go wrong, that we have the privilege to run to God Almighty or the Most High to bail you out, but the text suggests that it is the believer who already **lives and abides** in the shelter of the Most High can expect to find God's strong and sure protection.
- The text says, "You who live...you who abide..."This is the person who takes the time to be close to God, who takes the time to know God for all that He is, who takes the time to study the character of God throughout Scripture.
- The more a person knows about God, the more they are able to worship God for who He is, and use language to attribute to God His full character
- With the investment of time to know God, this develops what the psalmist calls TRUST.
- During times of current stress or eminent stress, the psalmist calls God's followers to have Faith in an amazing, all powerful God

2. Favor from a Protecting God

- Anticipating a positive future because of the psalmist's faith, he describes the protection he will receive from God as he lives in the Lord's presence.
- 3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;*
- The New Living Translation says, "For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease."
 - In God's protection there is deliverance or rescue from evil that hunts and desires to trap you; and from any kind of disease.
 - In the midst of the fear of the COVID-19 virus, the Word of God offers direct advice to the faithful, God will see us through this time.
 - Rather than placing our trust in the latest statistics, or types of filters for your face mask, or how much there is flattening of the curve, God is calling us to place our faith in the One who is Almighty, the Most High.

4 he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

- What is a pinion, buckler?
- Pinion is the outer part of a bird's feather including the flight feathers, and a buckler is a small shield held by a handle or worn on the forearm.
- The imagery is that God will protect like a mother bird protecting her chicks but with the stability of the equipment of an armed soldier.
- The Lord's care is both tender and protective because He is faithful to his people.
- What will God protection cover?

5 You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, 6 or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

- Night fears, attack from the enemy, disease, or destruction
- Sounds like a pretty good insurance policy
- This coverage is full time during times of day, or night, during fear, attack, disease, or destruction

7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. 8 You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

- Because we are unsure of who wrote the particular psalm, it is hard to determine who the writer is addressing.
- During the time of the prophets like Hezekiah or Isaiah, there was always fear of the great Northern empire of the Assyrians.
- Many lived under the terror of the attack of the Assyrian army who were like international terrorists who backed their campaigns with war and terror
- God will protect those who belong to Him from wickedness

9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, 10 no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

- Look at verses 11-12, do they sound familiar?
- In the New Testament, the only person who quotes this text is the devil when Jesus was being tempted on the mountain. (Matt 4, Luke 4)
- Remember when the devil take Jesus to the highest point in the temple and tells him to throw himself and then quotes Scripture?
- This is the text that was quoted!
- What was wrong with the devil's usage of this text?
- The situation was an artificial, created crisis rather than trusting God in situations which result from obedient service and devotion.
- Satan was manipulating Psalm 91 to make it apply where it does not apply.
- Because the devil created an artificial situation, the promise of God becomes invalid in cases of willful misuse.
- Taking these verses in a literal sense, any one of these troubles could happen to any of us.
- Take these assurances metaphorically, they represent a wider range of things we fear.
- This tells us that to those who are devoted to God there is nothing at all we need to fear whether it be the coronavirus, rioting, the stock market falling, or everyday misfortunes.
- ILL: "I got your six"- You remember Snoopy and the Red Baron? They flew what's called a biplane with a machine gun mounted in front of the pilot. In World War I, pilots flew biplanes the first time the battle was taken to the air. To shoot down an enemy plane, the pilot had to line up above or in front to shoot directly into the other plane and kill the enemy pilot or at least his engine. But the safest and most efficient position for the shot was to fly in behind the enemy, allowing continuous fire and a more likely strike.
 - In the military, they use a clock to inform position. Twelve o'clock is straight above you. Six o'clock is straight behind you and sets up the best strike zone. WWI pilots were the first to say, "I got your six," meaning they've got you covered so the enemy can't come up behind your back and kill you.
 - "I got your six" means "I got your back." It declares a story of loyalty . . . I'm loyal to you. I've got you covered. You're safe from enemies stabbing you in the back if I'm around.
- In the same way, for those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, can pretty much be sure the God has our SIX when we fly through enemy territory.

3. Fellowship with a Personal God

14 Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. 15 When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. 16 With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

- In verses 14-16, the psalmist declares the promises of God in the first person, and goes through quite of list of how God works in times of anxiety of trouble
 - I will deliver - rescue or intervening action
 - I will protect - security set high out of danger
 - I will answer - when we pray
 - I will be with - companionship in times of need
 - I will rescue and honor - this. Is at the heart of true faith where there is a deep mutual love between God and us and the assurance is that God will rescue and save us
 - I will satisfy - God pouring His blessing upon His people
 - I will show my salvation - offers us something for which we can set the directional navigation of our lives through salvation in Jesus Christ
- The condition for these actions of God is threefold: love God, knows my name, and prayer
- Let's briefly look at these conditions—
 - a. Love God "Those who love me" - to set's one's affection, desire, love, to be attached to. This a yearning love that clings or attaches to the loved one.
 - b. Know God "those who know my name"- means to seek, ask about. This is the ongoing relationship we have with God that is never satisfied with complacency but strives to learn and grow more
 - c. Pray to God "When they call to me" - God desires our cries for help as well as our feelings, thoughts, and desires.
- Notice that it does not say, God might do these things, or God can do these things, BUT God will become more active in our lives when take the time to love, know and pray to God.
- EX: In a sermon, Juan Carlos Ortiz spoke of a conversation with a trapeze artist. The performer admitted the net underneath was there to keep the trapeze artists from breaking their necks. Then he added, "The net also keeps us from falling. Imagine there is no net. We would be so nervous that we would be more likely to miss and fall. If there was not a net, we would not dare to do some of the things we do. But because there is a net, we dare to make two turns, and once I made three turns— thanks to the net!" Ortiz then made this observation: "We have security in God. When we are sure in His arms, we dare to attempt big things for God. We dare to be holy. We dare to be obedient. We dare, because we know the eternal arms of God will hold us if we fall."
- This is the bold confidence inspired by the sovereign security which God provides for all believers.
- Knowing of this divine protection, especially in the face of mounting dangers, God's people have courage to move forward with great faith.
- This psalm points the believer to the source of true security—God himself.

In Periods of Anxiety...

1. Faith in a Powerful God
2. Favor from a Protecting God
3. Fellowship with a Personal God

Offering

Jesus said: The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore we ask the Lord to send us out as laborers for the harvest. Let us offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise him above the heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

***Prayer of Dedication**

Good and holy God, for your steadfast love and faithfulness we give you thanks and bless your name. Let our whole lives become songs of gratitude, joy, and praise so that all the earth may know that we are your people and you are our God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** (Book of Common Worship)

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Prayers of the People

From you alone, Lord Jesus Christ, comes the authority to heal the sick, cast out demons, welcome the outcast, and even raise the dead. Therefore we are bold to seek your power and ready to claim your grace.

Heal the sick.... [silence] Touch with compassion all those who suffer; speak the word that will make them whole.

Cast out demons.... [silence] Banish the powers that oppress your people; bring peace to troubled hearts and minds.

Welcome the outcast.... [silence] Open the doors of your church to all; gather the lost and bring them home.

Raise the dead.... [silence] As you broke free from the grave, destroy the power of death forever.

Nothing is impossible for you, Christ Jesus. Let these signs of your coming realm be manifest in our world today; for you are our Lord and Savior. Amen.

And now, with confidence as children of God, let us pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver

us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever.
Amen.

***Hymn** PH 281 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

***Benediction**

***Organ Postlude** (please be seated for the postlude)