

# Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

June 28, 2020

Vision Series

## Ringing of the Bell

**Welcome and Announcements** Pastor Eric Hoey

**Organ Prelude** Kristin Jones, Director of Music

## \*Call to Worship Bob Clum

God calls us by name into the presence of holiness as God's holy people. We answer this call by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of God's own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Come, let us worship God.

## \*Hymn PH 229 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

1 From all that dwell below the skies

Let the Creator's praise arise:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung

Through every land, by every tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 In every land begin the song,

To every land the strains belong:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In cheerful sounds all voices raise

And fill the world with joyful praise.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;

Eternal truth attends Thy Word:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,

Till suns rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## \*Call to Confession

How costly is our broken relationship with God! The price of sin is a spiritless life, which is no life at all. Where are joy, peace, or lasting love to be found, except in the One who creates peace and joy, who sent Jesus Christ, the beloved Son, to save us from our sin? Let us confess, repent, and trust God to forgive us our sin.

## \*Prayer of Confession (unison)

**O God, on lonely Mount Moriah you put your servant Abraham to the test. We confess that we have failed much lesser tests of our faith. We have allowed sin to run our lives, to shape how we act toward others, and to kill our relationship with you. In your great mercy, forgive us. Change even our bodies from implements of destruction to instruments of your peace; for the sake of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## \*Assurance of Pardon

God, whose name is I am, provides for our weakness. Jesus Christ, I am in the body, gave himself for our salvation. All who are united to Christ in his death are united to Christ in his resurrection. The end is eternal life.

## \*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**

Holy God, come to us as ones who crave water in the desert. Grant that we may hear and respond to you, yes, in fear and trembling, and also in rejoicing, through the Lamb that was slaughtered, Jesus Christ, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, is worshiped and glorified by all your saints, now and forever. Amen.

**First Reading**      Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

**Special Music**      Betty Norment, soloist

**Second Reading**      1 John 3:1-6

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not

yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

## **Children's Sermon**      Pastor Eric

### **SERMON**      "Know Christ"

1 John 3:1-6

June 28, 2020

- For the next four weeks we will be going through a series of messages on the vision of our church.
- You are probably thinking, "Again, we did that last year!"
- Correct! We did it in January last year.
- Without looking at your bulletins, I wonder how many people can tell me the vision of our church off the top of their heads?
- This is why we need to hear about where we are going as a church on a regular basis.
- Our vision is to KNOW Christ, GROW in faith, SOW the love of Christ, and GO where God calls.
- Today, we cover KNOW Christ.
- Illustration:
  - You see it in the movies or read it in books.
  - Boy meets girl.
  - Boy and girl fall in love.
  - Boy and girl are really in love with each other, until one day, they get in a fight
  - The girl says, "We are done. I am finished with you. You don't even know me!"
  - The boy stopped and looked dumbfounded, how does a person really get to know you?
- Knowing the other person is at the heart of human relationships.
- In the same way, at the heart of a relationship of faith in Christ, we must take time to know Christ.
- What does it mean to know Christ?

A Person Who Knows Jesus—

#### **1. Experiences the Love of God** (v. 1a)

*1 See what love the Father has given us,*

- At the beginning of this phrase is the word see.
- Now when a word is at the beginning of a Greek sentence, it is the most important aspect of the phrase.
- Here the grammar is telling us to "Look!" "See!" where all attention is drawn to the next phrase the "love the father"
- The writer is telling us to take time that we need to contemplate this love and allow its reality to sink down to the depths of our being.

- It is meant to startle and amaze us so that we are left gasping, “What love is this?”
- What is this love the Father has given to us? (Three Aspects)
- First, God is love.
  - The love of God begins with God Himself.
  - God is love, and from whom all love is derived
  - The love of God is a part of His nature
  - Because God is love, I like what William Evans in the ISBE, love “leads Him to express Himself in terms of endearment toward His creatures, and actively to manifest that interest and affection in acts of loving care and self-sacrifice in behalf of the objects of His love.”
  - He goes on to say that God is love just as God is “light” “truth” and “spirit.”
  - So love is the expression of His personality a part of His nature.
  - Please understand that God does not merely love, but God is love—it is His very nature.
  - Did you know that Christianity is the only religious system that describes their supreme being as love
  - This is the nature of our God
  - We need to spend time getting to know God’s love.
- Secondly, God loves the believer in His Son
  - Those who are united by faith and love to Jesus Christ are the special objects of God’s love.
  - *John 17:23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*
  - In Jesus’ own words, he is affirming in his prayer, that God loves those who belong to Him
  - In fact, God loves US as much as God loved Jesus
  - Have you ever thought about that?
  - Have you ever taken the time to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ as it says in Ephesians 3:18?
- Third, God loves the world
  - God loves the world *John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*
  - In this act of love, God offers His Son to become the sacrificial lamb needed for the forgiveness of sin, so that we can life in Christ
  - *1 John 4:9 God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.*
  - In other parts of Scripture, God love for humanity I found:
    - *1 Timothy 2:4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
    - *2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.*
  - What is amazing here is God’s love for the world even with its sin and corruption.
- Knowing God is part of the vision of this church because we have so much to learn and grow.

- There is so much of God we need to understand, sit, marvel, and praise God for who he is.
- When was the last time you were filled with marvel and wonder at God's redemptive activity in light of our sin and rebellion against the background of God's unapproachable light and total holiness.

A Person Who Knows Jesus—

## **2. Knows their Identity in Christ** (v. 1b)

*that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

- Our identity defines who or what we are...either for ourselves or how other see us.
- Yet God delights to change rebellious wayward sinners like you and me into children who belong to his family.
- Not only does God give us His name to be called children of God, but God also give us his status as children of God.
- This is how our identity in Christ is formed.
- Jumping ahead to verse 2:

*2 Beloved, we are God's children now;*

- Our identity in Christ is that we ARE God's children
- *Ephesians 1:4-5 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will*
- Because those who have faith in Christ are children of God, John warns them that the world is unable to recognize them or relate to them.
- Going back to the last phrase in verse 1:

*The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

- You see John wants his readers to live distinct from the things that the world desires because they know God and belong to God.
- There are certain expectations to live as a child of God that is unlike the rest of the world.
- EX: Did you know that a lobster will change its shell several times in its lifespan? When the shell becomes cracked, it will pull right out of the old one and develop a new harder shell.
- In the same way, the person who embraces faith in Christ, it leaves their old life and embraces a new one according to God standards
- This is what John was communicating to his readers.
- And the person who knows their identity in Christ will live like those who belong to Christ.

A Person Who Knows Jesus—

## **3. Lives in the Hope of Christ's Return** (v. 2)

*2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.*

- Even though we have this status of being God's children, this does not mean we automatically have the character of being like Christ
- Basically, we are a work in process
- As God's children, living the Christian life is the effort of becoming more like Christ with each new day.

- Christlikeness is something we must strive to obtain by making Christ greater and greater in our lives and ourselves less and less.
- It is a process that we can grow through the study of God's Word, and applying it to our lives, and allowing ourselves to be transformed into His image, and bearing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.
- However being fully like Christ is something we will never obtain while we are living, but we all have this hope that God will perfect in us in some future time.
- Paul says that—
  - *Romans 8:19* For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
  - *1 Corinthians 2:9* But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"
- This is why John says at the end of verse 2—  
*What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.*
- This process of becoming like Christ will not be complete until we see Christ face to face
- *Romans 8:29* For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be *conformed to the image of his Son*, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.
- Illustration: There is a story of a New York business executive, who, after a horrendous day at the office was on his way home at last. He entered Grand Central Station. It was rush hour. The place was a zoo - wall to wall with people. All he wanted was to find his train, get to his seat and go home. The inevitable pushing and shoving ensued as he wended his way to his station and just as he reached the platform he saw his train. He quickened his pace and just as he did he accidentally banged into a little boy who had been carrying a jig saw puzzle - bits of which were now strewn all over the platform and were being squashed under the shoes and boots of hundreds of people. The businessman looked at the situation, glanced at his train and saw it slowly starting to move. He looked again at the boy and the pieces of puzzle all over the platform...glanced again at the train slowly gathering speed...looked at the little boy - and then put down his briefcase, got down on his hands and knees and picked up every piece of the puzzle. Putting those pieces back in the box he handed it to the little boy, who looked into the face of the business man and said "Excuse me sir, is your name Jesus?"
- This heartwarming story is the goal of every Christian because we live in the hope of Christ's return where we will be revealed, "we will be like him, we will see him as he is"

A Person Who Knows Jesus—

#### **4. Reflects the Character of Christ** (vv. 3-6)

*3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.*

- The Christian lives in the hope of becoming conformed to Jesus Christ.

- The more we live our lives in being like Christ, the more we are able to manage the sin the seeks to contaminate our bodies and soul.
  - The person who knows Jesus strives for holiness in reverence to God.
  - *2 Corinthians 7:1* Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.
  - The Christian life is one that strives after a life that is holy
- 4 *Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.*
- This tells us that when we sin we break God's law where God's law is a reflection of his perfect character and will.
  - Any deviation from God's instructions is an act of lawlessness.
  - When we sin, it shows our heart attitude towards God.
  - For example, anyone can detect a crooked line when a perfectly straight line is drawn next to it.
  - In the same way, the challenge of the Christian life is to have the perfectly straight line of Jesus right next to us so that we can make the course correction and be more like Christ.
  - Will we ever become a perfectly straight line?
  - Some day, we will when Christ brings the new heaven and new earth.

#### A Person Who Knows Jesus

1. Experiences the Love of God
2. Knows Their Identity in Christ
3. Lives in the Hope of Christ's Return
4. Reflects the Character of Christ

In conclusion, I am excited to see the RightNow Media site available today to each of us as a tool for each of us to take the time to KNOW Christ.

#### Offering

God gave the only begotten Son so that we may have eternal life through him. Let us offer our thanksgiving with the gifts of our lives.

##### **\*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**

Voice in the wilderness, Lamb upon the tree, Wind carrying the Word of salvation to the world— you who are the One in Three, thank you for calling us by name, for providing for our needs, for freeing us to live in union with Christ. We offer to you what you have given to us in joy with love for the common good. Bless gifts, givers, and receivers so that we can give you our richest praise in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

#### **\*Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed)

*Minister:*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

*All:*

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the

Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People**

Creator of all things seen and unseen, you blew the Spirit of Christ into apostles and disciples enslaved by sin, freeing your people from death and captivating us with your steadfast love. You raised the body of Christ, the church in the world, to proclaim the good news of salvation. For the sake of the world we pray, Come, Lord Jesus!

We pray for all whom you call into the work of the church. May they know the presence of your Spirit to strengthen, guide, correct, comfort, and challenge.

We pray for all whose lives are touched by the church's witness. May they feel the healing hands of Christ Jesus serving them with gentleness, kindness, grace, and love. We pray for the world into which you call the church. Help us to be faithful in giving ourselves away for the sake of the gospel. In your Spirit, let us show the peace of Christ to a world of violence, share the bread of heaven with a world of hunger, offer springs of living water to a world of pollution, and lead the way of truth and life with the gifts of faith, hope, and love until you bring the fullness of your new creation. Then and now we rejoice with the multitudes: praise, honor, and glory to you, Holy Trinity, in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, and now with confidence as children of God

### **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 339 "Be Thou My Vision"

1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:

Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

3 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

### **\*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 countenance upon you, and give you peace both now and evermore.

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