

Presbyterian Church of Henderson
Worship Service - 10:30AM, Facebook Premier
May 3, 2020

Piano Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

Call to Worship

Let us offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

Hymn "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

2 Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

3 Early let us seek Thy favor;
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
Eith Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Call to Confession

Whoever believes in Christ will not be put to shame. Confident in this promise, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments; through gossip we have slandered our friends. Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance. Help

your children long for your pure, spiritual milk that we may grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends in Christ, once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.
In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Passing the Peace

For the Passing of the Peace, I encourage you to pick up your phone, and text someone (in or outsider church family) a blessing like "The peace of Christ be with you" or any words that would bring a blessing into a person's life

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, as we listen to your holy Word, open our hearts to the power of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. Amen.

First Reading Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

- 1 In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
 - 2 Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
 - 3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
 - 4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
 - 5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
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- 15 My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
 - 16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very

head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Children's Sermon

SERMON "God's Lifelong Building Program"

1 Peter 2:2-10

May 3, 2020

- Many churches today at one time has stepped through all the phases of a church building program.
- Now when pastors go to seminary, no one teaches them how to purchase land, cast the vision for a building project, raise money, how to negotiate with subcontractors, and be the project coordinator and problem solver.
- EX: I remember I had a pastor who believed God had called him to pastor a particular church, but never in his life desired to be involved in a church building program.
 - My pastor has seen so many train wrecks watching other pastors crippled by a church building program.
 - Well his church ultimately grew where he had to move the church into another facility.
 - He had no choice and was forced begin a building program.
 - I remember the day, the architects came forward and presented the vision of buying land, and they had drawings of the new proposed church building.
 - That day they spelled out the commitment of each person in the congregation to make that dream come true
 - Can anyone in this church relate?
 - I know you have done the same thing with this property here
 - We all know the vision of a new church is exciting, hopeful, and challenging to the congregation for the next several years
- In the same way, God is in this lifelong building program, but God is not building physical structure.
- God is building a person who grows to be more like Christ, participates in relationships to one another, and lives out God's greater redemptive plan for the world.
- In Peter's second chapter of his letter, Peter is transitioning from what we have in Christ internally to what it looks like externally in the everyday life of the believer.

In God's lifelong building program:

1. GROW into Maturity (v. 2-3)

- In the previous verse, Peter is challenging his readers to turn towards the life changing transformation of the gospel and away from the selfish, petty, sinful aspects of the world

1 Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander.

- Then in our text this morning, he introduces a driving metaphor to emphasize his point

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

- The key word is the word "long" which means "to desire" or "to crave"
- Peter is saying to the early believers that their new faith in Jesus Christ is like that of a newborn infant that desires milk!
- Every mother knows that the most important aspect for a newborn is to be fed, right? And when one of those feeding are missed, the whole house knows!
- Milk is not a fringe benefit like it is part of a buffet to chose whether or you like it or not and go on to something else
- But every infant has a desperate desire for basic nourishment.
- This is milk is absolutely necessary for the proper nourishment and development of the child.
- Peter is challenging his readers to a simple analogy.
- In the same way a baby desires milk to bring nourishment to the body, every believer needs to crave and understand the necessity of spiritual milk in their own lives.
- This spiritual milk is found through the Word of God.
- Peter is connecting his comments to what he has said earlier in *1 Peter 1:23* *You have been born **anew**, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and **enduring word of God.***
- So the Word of God is the mode of communication God's uses to offer the good news of Jesus Christ as well as the spiritual food to everyone who has faith in Christ.
- In the phrase "*you may grow into salvation*" the main verb is "grow."
- The result of consuming milk of God's Word ought to be the spiritual growth of the believers.
- When Peter says we grow into salvation, he is using language that he has already used earlier in
 - *1 Peter 1:5* *who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a **salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.*
 - *1 Peter 1:9* *for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the **salvation** of your souls.*
- Spiritual growth is not something in the future for which we sit around and wait.
- Spiritual growth is what we "infants" do who have tasted spiritual growth and it becomes a lifelong pursuit of feeding upon the word of God.
- So friends, how have your spiritual eating habits been lately?
- ILL: There is is a common dairy cattle disease called traumatic reticuloperitonitis. This is when cattle ingest foreign objects such as nails, bits of wire, or tacks. Symptoms include lethargy, lack of milk production, excessive grinding of teeth, excessive weight gain, rupture of the stomach, and in severe cases, the passing of metal through the reticular lining, piercing the heart sac.

- In the same way, Peter's readers, because of their faith in Christ, are asked to turn from the sin of malice, guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander.
- These are the scrap metals that will cause a spiritual lethargy, weight gain, and a lack of distinction with the world, and in the worse case scenario a piercing or hardening of the heart.
- Peter is urging us to turn from sin, and cling to a desirous, hungry, pursuit of the milk that is only found in God's Word.

In God's lifelong building program:

1. GROW into Maturity (v. 2-3)

2. BELONG to One Another (vv. 4-5)

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- Remember when Jesus prophesied to Peter in Matthew 16:18 *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it?*
- It is no wonder that Peter is using the stone metaphor in his ministry to the scattered Christians in Asia Minor.
- Except the focus is not on himself, but all attention is given to Jesus Christ
- There are two verbs that drive the message here: COME and BE BUILT
- The word "to come" has a grammar of continuous usage which means people must come to Jesus continuously rather than a one time conversion experience
- Since Peter was named by Jesus as the Rock, rather than pointing to himself, Peter is now presents Christ as the ultimate ROCK or "living stone."
- This living stone refers to Jesus' stability as the risen Lord that was chosen and precious in God's sight.
- As we continuously come to the "living stone" where we find our salvation and personal relationship to God, **we** are referred to as "living stones."
- Here, Peter is using a new metaphor that all Christians BE BUILT into a new spiritual edifice or "spiritual house."
- The idea here is that this new house is living and growing where Christ is the cornerstone or capstone.
- As new stones are added it underlines the fact that God's architecture is not physical but biological.
- In an Old Testament, the tabernacle or temple was a symbol of the presence of God among His people because this was God's dwelling place.
- But in the New Testament, the true temple is now Christ's body where we are united to Christ
- The living stones are joined to Christ the cornerstone.
- This means that we become part of a spiritual edifice called the Church which becomes the new true house of God
- Everything that was hoped for in the Old Testament has now become a reality in the New Testament as Peter provides us the image of this new reality of the Body of Christ.
- The application for us here is the our NEED for one another.
- Do you see how important all the "one another" texts in the New Testament are in light of this metaphor that we become the temple of the living God?

- We need each other.
- This new spiritual house was never meant to be filled with people who are isolated to one another, but involved in community and demonstrating the love of Christ to each other.

6 For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," 8 and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

- In verses 6 and 7 Peter quotes two Old Testament texts (Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22) to support his teaching of Christ being the cornerstone or capstone in relation to those who believe and those who do not believe.

In God's lifelong building program:

1. GROW into Maturity (v. 2-3)
2. BELONG to One Another (vv. 4-5)

3. PROCLAIM What Christ has Done for Us (vv. 9-10)

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- Notice who Peter is addressing: his readers, you, and me.
- Peter calls us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.
- When we are called a "chosen people," this emphasizes God's loving initiative in bringing people to himself and allowing us to be part of a church
- A "royal priesthood" reminds us as believers that as priests we serve royalty
- A "holy nation" emphasizes that God has set apart the church for his use and that individual believers have a valuable contribution to make his church
- The point here is what was reserved for a special lineage or a special holy priesthood is now offered to us through faith in Jesus Christ.
- God dwells among all of us and sets us apart to be holy where we are considered priests in the holy presence of God
- For what purpose?

in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light

- God calls us to himself with the purpose to turn around and tell others about the mercy and grace of God.
- What this means is that anyone who has experienced the mercy of God should vocally proclaim God's praiseworthy virtues, deeds, power, glory, wisdom, grace, mercy, love, and holiness.
- Through our words and actions, we testify that we are children of lightened not of darkness.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- Peter is contrasting what we once had before faith in Christ which was no identity and no mercy to having an identity of being God's people who have received the mercy of God.

- What prompts Peter to write to these scattered Christians is their ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus even under persecution.
- ISW, we are recognize who we are in Christ, walk in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to proclaim to the world about how God makes a difference in our lives.

In God's lifelong building program:

1. GROW into Maturity (v. 2-3)
2. BELONG to One Another (vv. 4-5)
3. PROCLAIM What Christ has Done for Us (vv. 9-10)

Affirmation of Faith (Apostle's Creed)

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.

Offering

As people of God, let us offer ourselves and the fruit of our labor for God's work in the world.

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding goodness. Make our lives to be an acceptable offering in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

Special Music "O Jerusalem" Wayne Jones, soloist

Prayers of the People

Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying, **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For the church throughout the world, that all who profess to honor the risen Lord may be faithful in their witness and courageous in their testimony to the way of Jesus; **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For pastors, teachers and ministers, that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, they may seek to build the church upon Christ, the cornerstone, and humbly lead in faithful service; **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For the governments of the world and its leaders that the nations may dwell in peace, that good will prevail over strife, and people of faith may freely worship as their hearts direct; **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For rain and sun in proper measure, and for abundant food and water for all who dwell upon the earth; **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those in need, and for any who are oppressed by wounds of the soul; **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For our neighbors that we may live together in amity, and that strangers among us may find us to be hospitable friends; **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For our enemies, that their sins may be forgiven them and that they may find your peace; **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, your Son promised to grant whatever we ask in his name. By your Holy Spirit empower us to minister to the world as his faithful disciples that our work may testify to what we pray and show forth your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ, 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 "To God Be the Glory"

1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

2 Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

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.

Piano Postlude