

## **Presbyterian Church of Henderson**

Worship Service 10:00 AM

August 2, 2020

*Love Like That Series*

### **Ringing of the Bell**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**      Eric Hoey

- Love Like That - Virtual Discussion Group, Sunday nights at 4:30p. We will be viewing the videos from the RightNow Media site. 1. Everyone needs to register. I will post a link on registration to RightNow Media on our Facebook page. 2. RSVP to me of your interest so that I can send you a Zoom link for our discussion.
- Baby bottle boomerang for Marsha's place end next week. Pick up your bottle at the c Burch office.
- Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's supper today. Please take a moment to prepare your elements so that we can participate together.
- HCCO for Aug. is canned tuna and salmon. Drop off at the church.

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

#### **Call to Worship**      Wayne Jones

God meets us in our greatest need and satisfies us with divine presence and provision. In gratitude, let us worship the Lord our God.

#### **Hymn**      PH 210 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

1 Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

2 Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

3 A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

4 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

5 Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,

And our eternal home.

**Call to Confession** Wayne Jones

Let us confess our sins in the presence of the One who blesses us and meets our need.

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

**God of compassion, we are sick. We have wrestled all night with worry instead of resting in you. We have asserted our own goodness instead of awakening to yours. We have turned away those hungry for your help instead of trusting you and feeding them from your limitless supply of blessings. Forgive us, heal us, and help us to hold on to you. We call upon you, for you will answer us, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** Wayne Jones

The God of steadfast love is our refuge and Savior. In Christ, we who are broken are healed, forgiven, filled, and transformed. Alleluia! Amen.

**Passing of the Peace**

Please take a moment to text someone now or in the future, "The Peace of Christ be with You!"

**Gloria Patri** (PH 579) Wayne Jones

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** Wayne Jones

All-knowing God, you have satisfied our hunger at sunset and held us close through nights of wrestling. Now let the day break with your blessing. Awaken and illumine us by your Word that we may behold your likeness. Amen.

**First Reading** Matthew 14:13-21 Cynthia Hoey

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**Second Reading** Ephesians 5:1-2 Cynthia Hoey

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**SERMON** "Living Christlike Love"  
Ephesians 5:1-2

- This year because of COVID-19, the Summer Olympic Games were postponed to next year.
- They have been canceled only for world wars in 1916, 1940 and 1944, and never postponed.
- For the Tokyo 2020 Olympics next year, 5 new sports were added.
- The chairman of the Tokyo 2020 said, "The inclusion of the package of new sports will afford young athletes the chance of a lifetime to realize their dreams of competing in the Olympic Games – the world's greatest sporting stage – and inspire them to achieve their best, both in sport and in life."
- When you watch the Olympics, you see athletes at the top of their game, the best of the best.
- Sometimes the perfection of a particular sport is so exact, that it either inspires young athletes or discourages young athletes in ever dreaming of attaining Olympic gold.
- In the same way, is it really possible to love like Christ?
- Is the bar of perfection is set so high that no person could ever attain it?
- Play [video] with Les Parrott loving like Jesus.
- This morning we are beginning our series called, "Love Like That"
- It is based upon the book, Love Like That, by Les Parrott.
- As we go through the series, you are free to buy the book by Les Parrott to learn the full scope of loving like Jesus, or you can listen to the sermons.
- Also for the next 6 weeks, I will be leading online Zoom discussion of the RightNow Media videos from the themes of the book.
- Q: So how do we live out a life of Christ's love?

**To Live a Life of God's Love**

**1. Watch What God Does**

*1 Therefore be imitators of God,*

- Some translations use - "Follow God's example" or "Watch what God does, then you do it"
- The word for "imitate" comes from the Greek word mimic which means to be an imitator or follower
- It is where we get the word mimeograph machine
- EX: This reminds me of how we often train people into certain jobs by being a shadow or apprentice to follow exactly what the person does.
- The way to imitate something is by observing or watching carefully
- So for us to love like Christ, it begins with OUR discipline to be imitators of God.
- What that means is the need to be students of looking intently at the life of Christ and then imitating it.

- Given the context of this verse, the prior verse says in Ephesians 4:32, “and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”
- So the context of this command to imitate God is forgiveness
- Paul here wants to use God’s example in Christ as a pattern for personal relationships.
- Because forgiveness is one of the most Christlike attributes we can offer to the world
  - Jesus taught forgiveness in *Matthew 18:21-22* *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*” Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.
  - Jesus modeled forgiveness in his prayer in *Luke 23:34* *Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”*
- So for us to begin to love like Christ, we need to fix our eyes on Christ himself, shadowing, mimicking, copying, and following Christ in our relationship with others.
- We need to look toward Christ and study how he had compassion, forgiveness and love for those around him.

#### To Live a Life of God’s Love

##### 1. Watch What God Does

##### **2. Realize Your Potential**

*as beloved children,*

- As human beings, we were created with the capacity to love and the desire to be loved.
- Because of sin, our God-given yearning for love can lead us down all kinds of dead-end paths.
- We can be led to believe that we’ll be loved if we are beautiful, successful, promiscuous, or wealthy.
- The good news of this tiny portion of Scripture tells us two things: 1. We are loved by God, and 2. We are children of God
- These two facts about our identity in Christ helps us understand our full potential.
- When we do not live into these two aspects of our identity, we cannot live into our full potential.
- [CLIP- Chicken and the Eagle]
- The “eagle potential” in us is knowing, living, and being a child of God that is loved by God.
- Ever notice in rebellious children, they want to grow up fast, declare their own identity, and make their own independent decisions?
- In the same way, the rebellious child of God thinks and acts independently from God.
- But a child of God who realizes their potential knows that they are loved by God, behaves directly opposite of the rebellious child because they want to grow up to be like their father

- Friends, to live a life of love like Christ, realize our full potential that we are loved by God, and we are also children of God with all the full benefits of God's grace.

To Live a Life of God's Love

1. Watch What God Does
2. Realize Your Potential

### **3. Live God's Extravagant Love**

*2 and live in love, as Christ loved us*

- In this context, to imitate God means to walk in love.
- This is the theme of this series[click]—for the next 5 weeks we will look five relationship perspectives of Jesus being 1. Mindful, 2. Approachable, 3. Grace-Full, 4. Bold, 5. Self-Giving
- Those five themes are not comprehensive.
- In fact, there are many ways that Jesus modeled love and sacrifice.
- Allow me to mention three:
  - a. Compassion: Jesus was incredibly compassionate. We see Him time and time again responding to the needs of the suffering:
    - *Matt. 9:36* When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
    - *Luke 7:13* When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep."
    - In his compassion, we find that the sick were made well and the blind given sight
    - He liberated those who were bound by social injustice and prejudice (Mark 7:24-30; Luke 5:12-15; 7:36-50; 8:43-48; 10:38-42; 19:1-10)
    - Those in bondage to demonic powers were set free (Luke 4:33-35)
  - b. Respect: Jesus has respect and valued women—which was an attitude that was unexpected and unknown in his time.
    - Mark 1:30-31 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
    - Luke 7:11-15 Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.
    - He respected and valued children which was counter cultural to Jews
  - c. Listened: Jesus was an extraordinary listener.
    - Whether it be His enemies or His disciples, Jesus valued people by listening to them and responding thoughtfully and patiently.
    - Mark 10:48-52 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he

sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well."  
Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

To Live a Life of God's Love

1. Watch What God Does
2. Realize Your Potential
3. Live God's Extravagant Love
- 4. Learn Self-sacrifice** (giving everything not getting something)

*and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

- The ultimate expression of love is self-sacrifice as found in the life of Jesus with his sacrifice on the cross
- Because Jesus has laid down his life for us, we are to love others to the point of sacrifice
- *John 15:12-13 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*
- Granted we cannot lay down our life for everybody or even our friends because once you do it, your done. (That would really lower the population rate in Henderson!)
- Jesus is telling us to have the attitude of sacrificial love for others.
- It is a selflessness that desires to be more like Christ.
- Earlier in chapter 4, Paul describes those outside of the faith who give their lives over to "licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity"
- In contrast, we who strive to be like Christ give ourselves over to love like Christ.
- Les Parrott in his book Love Like That says, "When we empty ourselves of our self-centered desires, when we surrender our desire to get our way, we are filled with grace. Each act of kindness improves our relationships. Each act of self-giving love expands our life."
- Such self-giving for others is pleasing to God.
- As with Christ and also with us, self-sacrificial love is a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

To Live a Life of God's Love:

1. Watch What God Does
2. Realize Your Potential
3. Live God's Extravagant Love
4. Learn Self-sacrifice

**Offering** Eric Hoey

In the faithful hands of Christ, our little is multiplied to feed many. Come now; let us offer our loaves and fishes to the All-sufficient One who said, "Bring them here to me."

**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**

We thank you, our Father, that you have empowered us to participate in the miraculous multiplying ministry of your Son. Receive now these gifts you have provided us out of your abundance that your miracle ministry may multiply to satisfy the hungry of this world today; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed) Eric Hoey

*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** Eric Hoey

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,  
O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**

God who hears us, holds us, and helps us, you are our eternal source of blessing. You are our endless source of provision. In your compassion, you see our need; you heal our sickness and satisfy our hunger. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need: O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**

For our sisters and brothers called by your name throughout the world, O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**

Bless your church and help us move forward in mission with you. O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**

For the healing and preservation of your creation in heaven and on earth, O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer. For the need of the nations—wisdom for leaders, vindication and relief for the oppressed— O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**

For those who are hungry, ill, vulnerable, or seeking refuge from adversaries and injustice, O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**

For all who need you, near and far, especially those we name now, aloud and in our hearts ... [Names may be called forth from the assembly.] O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**

For the faithful who have preceded us and in whose steps we follow, O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**

Wondrously show us your steadfast love, that we may behold your face in righteousness and be satisfied, when we awake, beholding your likeness; through Christ our Lord we pray, 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.

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**      Eric Hoey  
**Words of Institution**  
**Communion**  
**Prayer**

**Hymn**      PH 513 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

1 Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)  
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)  
When I fall on my knees,  
With my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees;)  
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)  
When I fall on my knees,  
With my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)  
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)  
When I fall on my knees,  
With my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

**Benediction**      Eric Hoey

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**