

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

August 23, 2020

Love Like That Series

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

- Join us in our Les Parrott book discussion, Love Like That using the RightNow Media learning videos. Please see me if you are interested.
- Sunday School is online. Join us as we look at current issues at 9:00am on Sundays.
- The Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser for Marsha's Place has ended. Please drop off your filled bottles at the church and we will deliver them for you.
- If you would like to volunteer to read the Scripture for one of our upcoming online services please contact me.
- The church van was sold recently for \$1930. Special thanks to Robby Woodring for bringing it to auction and sold it on our behalf.

Call to Worship

You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

We, who are many, are called to worship God, the Three in One. Let us worship God.

Hymn PH 371 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)

2 Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. (Refrain)

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Confident in this ever-gracious, never-failing help, we come before the Lord, confessing our sin and seeking forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's

shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, we would now be lost in sin. But it is the Lord who is on our side. And so we are forgiven. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Passing the Peace

Please turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— "The peace of Christ be with you"

Special Music

"Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul"

by John W. Peterson

Piano: Kristin Jones

Lead vocal: Wayne Jones

Harmony vocal: Wayne Jones

1 Oh what a wonderful, wonderful day; day I will never forget.
After I'd wandered in darkness away, Jesus my Savior I met
Oh what a tender, compassionate friend, He met the need of my heart
Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling, He made all the darkness depart

Chorus:

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul
When at the cross the Savior made me whole
My sins were washed away My night was turned to day
Heaven came down and glory filled my soul.

2 Born of the Spirit with life from above, into God's family divine
Justified fully through Calvary's love, Oh what a standing is mine
And the transaction so quickly was made, when as a sinner I came
Took of the offer of grace He did proffer He saved me Oh praise His dear name.
(Chorus)

3 Now, i've a hope that will surely endure after the passing of time;
I have a future in heaven for sure, There in those mansions sublime.
And it's because of that wonderful day when at the cross I believed
Riches eternal and blessings supernal from his precious hand I received. (Chorus)

Prayer for Illumination

God of revelation, mere flesh and blood cannot reveal divine truth; only your Spirit can give that gift. Be in my breath and voice, be in our ears and understanding, that through these words your Word may be known. Amen.

First Reading

John 8:2-11

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees

brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

Second Reading

Luke 23:34-43

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Children's Sermon Pastor Eric

SERMON "Love Like That: Grace-Full"

Selected Scriptures

- Illustration: 8/1/1912 Canada's CTV News reports — Guelph, Ontario police are looking for a remorseful thief who tried to atone for breaking into a local home with a letter of apology and gift of cash to pay for a damaged door. Several items were stolen from the home last Thursday evening, including an Xbox and a digital camera worth more than \$1,000. The next morning, a plastic bag containing the stolen items was left on the front porch, Guelph police told CTV Kitchener. Along with the items was a letter titled "apology" and \$50 to pay for damage caused to the screen door during the break-in. The letter reads: "Dear Family I have wronged. I'm the one who committed the serious crimes against your family and I want to apologize from the bottom of my heart. It was nothing personal and I didn't go through any of your personal belongings. I have been having a very hard time financially lately and I made the worst mistake of my life. I would also commit to at least 15 hours of community service to partially help atone for what I have done." ...

- **The apology doesn't change the fact that a crime has been committed, police said, and investigators are looking for the suspect.**

- Although this thief has apologized and has sought to make amends, the local police have made it clear that he/she must still stand accountable for their crime.
- Apparently, being sorry isn't enough to satisfy the letter of the law in Canada.
- I would imagine it is the same here in the US
- In the same way, we stand before a holy God who declares us guilty for breaking the laws of God.
- Similarly, regret or sorrow—no matter how heartfelt, is not enough to absolve the sinner of accountability to the laws of God.
- Only an appeal to the grace of God can do that.

- We have been going through a series based upon the book Love Like That by Les Parrott.
- We have been looking at being 1. MINDFUL which is seeing like Jesus what others do not see, 2. APPROCHABLE following after the most approachable person ever lived
- This morning we look at how Christ was GRACE-FULL.
- Jesus rarely used the term grace, but it was a key component to his teaching.
- The word "grace" appears a 109 times in the NT
- It basically means God's unmerited favor.
- There is nothing we have to do to get it.
- *Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all*
- Philip Yancey in his book, What's So Amazing About Grace, "While every other religion offers a way to earn approval, only Christianity dares to make God's love unconditional.
- *John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth*
- Jesus lived a life of grace.
- So how did Jesus demonstrate GRACE?

1. Unconditional Grace - John 8:2-11

2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. 5 Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him.

- Jesus taught regularly in the temple courts where people naturally came to hear him.
- Jesus' teaching is interrupted by the religious leaders where they have brought a woman caught in adultery.
- According to the Mosaic law, the penalty is death by stoning where two witnesses were needed to confirm the guilt of a person.
- The man should have been brought in with the woman, but he was not present.
- The trap here was to discredit Jesus and not necessarily to humiliate or punish woman.

- If Jesus were to condemn her, he would lose favor with those whom he had taught, and break Roman law because Roman law forbids the Jews from carrying out executions.
- Refusal to stone her would mean he does not treat the law of Moses seriously.
- Either way, the religious leaders hoped to bring disgrace upon him forcing him to choose laws of Moses or Roman law.
- The religious leaders demanded an answer.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

- Jesus writes on the ground and stands up asking those without sin to throw the first stone.
- Can you imagine the situation here, if a person threw a stone they would be in trouble with the Roman law, and declare to everyone they are perfect and sinless.
- In the comment, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her," Jesus is also saying that only the one without sin is can judge...which belongs to God the Father.
- Slowly everyone leaves and Jesus says the most graceful words, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way and do not sin again."
- With the rightful authority to judge the person's sin, he forgives her with the unmerited, full grace of God.
- The guilty woman is saved rather than stoned.
- She is given grace, not guilt.
- ILL: A poor farmer went to his banker and said, "I've got some good news and some bad news." Which one do you want to hear first? The banker replied, "Well let's get the bad news over with first."
 - The farmer said, "Ok, I've had a bad year and I can't pay the mortgage I owe you on my house." The banker was pretty disgruntled.
 - The farmer said, "And, I've had such a bad year that I can't repay any of the money I borrowed for my new machinery either." The banker was even more troubled.
 - The farmer added, "And, the money I borrowed to buy seeds and fertilizer, I have had such a bad year, that I can't pay you for any of that either."
 - The banker said, "That's terrible. I sure could use some good news now. So, what's the good news?"
 - The farmer said, "The good news is that I still intend to do business with you."
- In a similar way, Jesus still wants to do business with us.
- There is nothing that we can do to default on the salvation given to us.
- In this text of the woman caught in adultery, Jesus acknowledges the ugliness of sin and chooses to see beyond it.
- This is unconditional grace

2. Loving Grace - Luke 23:34-43

34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35 And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

- When Jesus is mounted on the cross, he is brought to place called The Skull between two other criminals who being crucified as well.
- I would imagine her felt alone as he was enduring the excruciating pain from the nails in his hands and feet, and struggles to capture his next breath.
- The text describe his enemies are busy dividing his clothing, watching, scoffing, and mocking.
- Yet, in the midst of the antagonism all around him, Jesus does some thing quite remarkable.
- He says, "Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."
- This is grace beyond measure beyond anything imaginable.
- While Jesus is enduring unimaginable suffering, he offered grace and forgiveness to his persecutors.
- If Jesus was only thinking about his own pain and suffering, he would not have demonstrated this forgiveness.
- In fact, he could have called down an army of angels to show his adversaries a thing to two.
- But in a grace-filled and human moment, he offers loving grace and forgiveness to those around him.
- Q: What about you? When you are being offended, do you ratchet up your defenses and plot your way of fighting back. Give them what they deserve!?!?
- Or can you love like Jesus and forgive the offending party in the midst of your own pain and suffering.
- What is amazing about the loving grace of Jesus is that Jesus still offers grace in his loneliness and agony, and amidst those who had no regard for him

3. Spontaneous Grace - Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

- Jesus' grace giving does not stop while he was on the cross.
- One of the other robbers mocked Jesus, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"
- The other criminal came to his defense, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, but this man has done nothing wrong."
- Then he says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
- In Jesus' last act of grace before his death, he turns to the criminal and says, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."
- Isn't that amazing!

- Before Jesus is at the end of his life on earth, before he becomes the sacrificial lamb to save humanity from their sin, and before he takes his last breath, Jesus spontaneously offers grace to one of the criminals next to him on the cross.
- Think about it.
- The opposite of spontaneous grace is selected or calculated grace.
- This is the type of grace that in your mind pre-judges people to see if they should merit your grace.
- It is the nitpicking, tearing down of others to boost ourselves up.
- Loving Like Jesus means that the goodness and grace we offer to people is spontaneous rather than calculated and prescreened.

4. Illogical Grace - Matthew 20:8-15

- Jesus speaking to Peter told him this story of a landowner who went early in the morning, probably to the marketplace, to hire workers for his vineyard.
- The agreement was to pay them a days wages, and they went to work.
- Then the landowner went back to the place where he hired original workers, probably around 9:00am, and saw other men standing around doing nothing. He told them to go work in his vineyard and will pay them whatever is right.
- At noon, 3:00p, 5:00p he did the same thing with each set of workers.

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9 *When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.*

- Everyone received a day's wages regardless of the time they started.
 - This began to upset people especially those that worked the longest.
- 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'* 13 *But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'*

- This parable catches us by surprise because everyone assumes that the longer a person works they are rewarded accordingly.
- Les Parrott says, "But the illogical Grace-Giver from Nazareth doesn't work according to a tiered system of reward. That's not how his vineyard operates."
- When a person compares their performance with others, they will miss the point of the pay plan.
- Les Parrott continues, "Grace is not dependent on the hours you work, the results you produce, or the job you do. That's why in the grace-filled vineyard the first are the last and last are the first. It defies logic."
- In the parable of the prodigal son, the older brother was upset at the celebration because he had worked harder than his younger brother.
- God's grace is all about the illogical goodness of God rather than the performance we try so hard to achieve.

1. Unconditional Grace - John 8:2-11
2. Antagonistic Grace - Luke 23:34-43
3. Spontaneous Grace - Luke 23:39

4. Illogical Grace - Matthew 20:8-15

Offering

Brothers and sisters, present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. As an act of worship, let us now return to God our offering.

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, you took a baby from the Nile and used him to lead your people to the promised land. Take our offerings and use them for your people in this land and throughout your world. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

God of all, thank you for hearing these prayers:

For the human family with whom we share this world— those closest to us and those whose names we will never know— we give you thanks and ask your help in living into our identity as your children.

We pray especially for ... [names of community members in need and of faraway concerns related to humankind].

We pray especially for ... [names of local and faraway concerns related to the natural world].

For local, national, and international leaders [names of these leaders may be included]— those whose policies we appreciate and those with whom we struggle— we give you thanks and ask that you be at their side, guiding them to act in justice and mercy.

We pray especially for [names of local and faraway concerns related to public policy].

For joys and concerns that occupy our thoughts today— those we have spoken aloud and those we ponder inwardly— we give you thanks and ask that you be at our side, guiding us to recognize that our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Hear the prayers we lift in silence.... Accept and heed all these prayers, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 367 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"
(vs. 1,2,3, & 5)

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu,
Fill us with Your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from You.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)

2 Neighbors are rich and poor,
Varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near and far away. (Refrain)

3 These are the ones we should serve,
These are the ones we should love;
All are neighbors to us and You. (Refrain)

5 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with You. (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.

Postlude