

# Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

September 6, 2020

*Love Like That Series*

**Prelude** Kristin Jones, Director of Music

## **Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements** Pastor Eric Hoey

- This Sunday we are celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord Supper together online. Everyone is welcome to gather some bread and juice so that we can take communion together.
- Next sermon series in Titus called "Why Goodness Matters" where we will see how goodness makes a difference in our culture and hear the challenging call to be GOOD.
- Join us online for Sunday school talking about the latest issues from the news the how Scripture applies to our current circumstances.
- Marriage Night is coming next Saturday 6:00-9:30p. Watch it in the fellowship hall or watch it online in the comforts of your own home. Sign up at [marriagenight.org](http://marriagenight.org).

## **\*Call to Worship**

Praise the Lord!

**Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful, for the Lord takes pleasure in the people.**

Let the faithful sing for joy.

## **\*Hymn** PH 517 "We Come as Guests Invited"

1 We come as guests invited  
When Jesus bids us dine,  
His friends on earth united  
To share the bread and wine;  
The bread of life is broken,  
The wine is freely poured  
For us, in solemn token  
Of Christ our dying Lord.

With wonder and thanksgiving  
For love that knows no end,  
We find in Jesus living  
Our ever-present Friend.

2 We eat and drink, receiving  
From Christ the grace we need,  
And in our hearts believing  
On Him by faith we feed;

3 One bread is ours for sharing,  
One single fruitful vine,  
Our fellowship declaring  
Renewed in bread and wine:  
Renewed, sustained, and given  
By token, sign, and word,  
The pledge and seal of heaven,  
The love of Christ our Lord.

## **\*Call to Confession**

Amid the countless things that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God, there stands this: God so loves us as to bathe us with grace and feed us with mercy and forgive us our sins. Confident in the love of God, let us pray together.

## **\*Prayer of Confession** (unison)

**Lord God, while we were still slaves to sin, you died for our salvation. Yet we still worship the false gods of the world, forgetting that you are Lord. Loving worldly wealth, we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Trusting worldly strength, we have not trusted your word nor followed the Word-made-flesh. Forgiving by worldly norms, we have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us. Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**\*Passing the Peace**

Please take a moment now or in the future to text someone a word of encouragement, "The peace of Christ be with you!"

**Piano Interlude**      Kristin Jones

**Prayer for Illumination**

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, pass among your gathered people, opening minds to increase understanding, opening hearts to bind us together in your love. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

**First Reading**      Isaiah 53:1-9      Helen Posey

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

**Second Reading**      Philippians 2:3-8      Drew Warner

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

## **SERMON** “Love Like That: Self Giving”

Philippians 2:3-8

- ILL: Les Parrott in his book Love Like That writes about the research of Bernard Rimland where he asked 216 students to list the initials of 10 people they knew best. Then he asked them to indicate whether or not each person seemed happy. Finally, he asked them to go over their list again, indicating if the person seemed selfish or unselfish.
- The striking result was that 70% of those judged unselfish seemed happy while 95% of those judged selfish seemed unhappy. Rimland surprisingly came to the conclusion: selfish people are, by definition, those whose activities are devoted to *bringing themselves happiness*. Yet, as least as judged by others, these selfish people are far less likely to be happy than those whose efforts are devoted to making others happy.
- Bottom line - those who are dedicated to being selfless people and actually more happy than those who live lives that try to bring happiness to themselves.
- This is what Les Parrott calls being Self-Giving
- We have been looking at the practical ways to Love Like Jesus:
  - **Mindful** (Not Indifferent) by seeing what others don't
  - **Approachable** (Not Exclusive) by moving out of our own comfort zones
  - **Graceful** (Not Judgmental) by not limiting our love to people deserve it
  - **Bold** (Not Fearful) by speaking truthfully
  - **Self-giving** (Not Self-serving) by emptying ourselves
- Jesus says in Matthew 10:39, “Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”
- Les Parrott says, “It flips our intuitive sense of self-interest inside out. It also gets at why Jesus was radical about learning to give ourselves to others.”
- So how did Jesus give go himself for others?
- A wonderful example would be the washing of the disciple's feet in the upper room.
- It was a task normally reserved for lowly servants, but Jesus picks up a towel and washes his disciple's feet.
- John 13:14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
- Today, rather than showing you how Jesus was self-sacrificing, I wanted to how to be self-giving from the words of Apostle Paul.

Philippians 2:3-8

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who,

though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

How to be self-giving:

### **1. Check your ego** (v. 3)

*3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,*

- The words “selfish ambition” is to elevate oneself or to put one’s own interests above another’s.
- It is rooted in pride, self-love, and self-achievement.
- It is an approach that puts others before anything else including self
- In the context of the church at Philippi, selfish ambition was a hinderance to community because it ultimately lead to discord and strife.
- *Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all **humility** and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
- Personal prestige and vain conceit is the direct opposite of humility, gentleness, and love.
- ILL: 10 Laws of the Toddler
  1. If I like it, it’s mine.
  2. If it’s in my hand, it’s mine.
  3. If I can take it from you, it’s mine.
  4. If I had it a little while ago, it’s mine.
  5. If it’s mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
  6. If I’m doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
  7. If it looks just like mine, it’s mine.
  8. If I saw it first, it’s mine.
  9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
  10. If it’s broken, it’s yours.
- Some things never change when we become adults, we just become more sophisticated at the laws of the toddler.
- The emphasis here is an outward perspective on life rather than an inward desire to feed our egos.
- The first sentence of Rick Warren’s book, *The Purpose Driven Life* is this: “It’s not about you!”

### 1. Check your ego (v. 3)

### **2. Be other’s centered** (vv. 3b-4)

*but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*

- Well, Paul continues in our text by offering one practical solution on how to put your ego into check—Be other’s centered.
- How does one do that?
  - a. Have humility
    - Notice the text does not say, “to regard others before yourselves,” but it says, “to regard other as better than ourselves”

- There is a difference: one becomes a maxim to put others before yourselves, and the other is the crux of humility.
- When we put others "as better" than ourselves, it drives the idea that our needs, wants, and egos have to put aside in order to regard others as better than ourselves.
- In the Greek culture which Paul was writing, people were strong and ego-centric, and mainly thought of themselves.
- Here in our text, Paul offers a radical idea of humility.
- Humility is seeing the strengths, gifts of others **and** our own weakness, failures, and limitations
- Humility before God and man is a virtue we all need to work hard to achieve because when you think about it, a spirit of pride in human relations demonstrates a lack of humility before God.
- Jesus' first disciples had a difficult time with humility—*Mark 10: 41-45* *When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."*
- So Paul is telling us to think of others before yourself
  - Why? Because the self-centeredness that considers only one's own rights, plans, and interests must be replaced by a broader outlook that includes the interests of others.
  - EX: When I go shopping, I will step into a store and the first thing I ask myself is "what do I need here?" But I have noticed that when I go shopping with my wife, the first thing she asked me, "Is there anything our friends or family need?"
- In humility, I am reminded of the importance of others when I go shopping with my wife.

1. Check your ego (v. 3)
2. Be other's centered (vv. 3b-4)

### **3. Think like Jesus** (v. 5)

*5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,*

- The great example of humility is Christ Jesus.
- As he journeyed toward the cross, he did not "power-up" to defeat his opponents.
- He did not say, "The authorities are coming after me, but you and I will rise up, we will riot in the streets until we gain the upper hand."
- Everyday we see leaders in the political arena, business world, or even neighbor to neighbor who feel that they need to show their strength rather than weakness, the survival of the fittest.
- Just look at social media, and you will find harsh criticism, attack, and power plays constantly.
- But Jesus, although he had the full ability to "power-up" and stop his pending arrest and persecution, he continued to submit himself further and further to the will of God.

- In fact, when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, we can see how low Jesus would go to see the Father's will become fulfilled when he said, "Lord, take this cup from me...not my will, but thy will be done"
- Jesus is the supreme example of humility, love, and selflessness.
- This is the mindset we are to emulate.
- Remember the phrase, "WWJD: What would Jesus do?"
- The slogan that saw peak popularity in the United States during the 1990s, when millions of kids were seen wearing "WWJD" bracelets, wristbands, T-shirts, hats, and much more, year after year.
- The advantage of seeing WWJD everywhere was that it caused people to pause and think: "Is this what Jesus would want me to do?"
- So how is your thinking?
- Do you ask what would Jesus do in every moment of your day?
- To think like Jesus is really about discipleship, and discipleship is all about follower-ship, and how well do you follow.
- Friends, we sit at the feet of Jesus studying his words and actions, and implementing the way Jesus would respond into our lives.

#### **4. Share in his humility and love (vv. 6-8)**

*6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,*

- In verse 6, Paul affirms that Jesus pre-existed equal to God in all majesty and splendor before he became human.
- Some have interpreted this verse to mean, Jesus stopped being divine, became human, and then back to his original state with God after His work was done.
- I like what NT Wright says in his commentary on Philippians, "But the decision to become a human, and go all the way along the road of obedience, obedience to the divine plan of salvation was not a decision to stop being divine. It was a decision about what it really meant to be divine."
- Jesus retained his equality with God when he became human, but Jesus' humility was the driving force of God's love for humanity.
- Jesus voluntarily put himself on earth as a human being for the purpose of experiencing death.
- So when Paul writes that he "emptied himself," Jesus did this rather than taking hold of His own identity as the sovereign ruler and creator of the universe.
- Another way to look at Jesus' humility, Jesus emptied himself of His own rights in order to serve others.
- So when we are to follow the example of Christ, what does that mean?
- Granted there are areas of Jesus life that cannot be our example.
  - We cannot copy his redemptive acts.
  - We cannot suffer and die for humanity
- It was Jesus, he alone, who was able to satisfy the divine justice and bring salvation to humanity.
- But we can share in his humility by giving up:
  - our sense of pride
  - our ability to power-up
  - our self-reliance
  - our sense of entitlement

- our rebellion
- our blame of others
- our unforgiveness

*8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.*

- Jesus offered to us the ultimate example of sacrifice
- *John 15:13-14* *No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*
- The motivation for this sacrifice is love.
- Q: How much do you truly love your friends and neighbors? Are you willing to sacrifice your time, talents and treasure for the love of others?
- This is how we are to love like Jesus.
- It is the self-sacrifice of our own comforts and pleasures for others.

How to be self-giving:

1. Check your ego (v. 3)
2. Be other's centered (v. 4)
3. Think like Jesus (v. 5)
4. Share in his humility and love (vv. 6-8)

## **Offering**

Let us be glad in our Maker and rejoice in our King. Let us praise God's name with dancing and music; let us bring to God our tithes and offerings.

### **\*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**

Ever-present God, just as Jesus promised to be among us when two or three gather in his name, be among us now that these offerings may become instruments of your love and justice. In the name of Jesus, 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 grace and steadfast love, we thank you for your commandments, which order our life together. We thank you for calling us to live honorably with one another and pray for your grace as we try to do all that you require of us.

Increase in us, we pray, the capacity to love you and our neighbors without reserve and to love even those who harm us. Not halfheartedly, but with our whole hearts, we bring before you the cares, the concerns, and the joys that occupy us.

We remember before you those who are at odds with one another in families, in neighborhoods or offices, and even in the church. We pray for nations in the midst of internal or external struggles and conflict. Teach us, O God, to seek nonviolent ways toward resolution. Help us to speak the truth and to listen with understanding when perspectives are far apart. We pray for love to bring peace into every troubled heart and place.

We remember before you those who have physical needs today. People who are hungry and thirsty; people who are exhausted by the demands of work or caregiving; people who are sick, or undergoing surgery; and people who live with chronic pain. Bring relief and rest, we pray.

We remember those weighed down with needs of heart and soul. A worry that keeps us awake at night, grief that accompanies us everywhere we go, depression that clouds us, or an addiction that grips us. Lift all of these heavy burdens with the light and peace of your presence, we pray. Sustain us over the long journey toward health and give us trust in you, ourselves, and those who love us.

We remember before you not only our cares, but also our joys— a birthday celebrated, an anniversary enjoyed; new beginnings— a baby born, a new school year begun, a new job, a new relationship. We thank you, O God, for the gift of laughter, for enduring friendships, and for cherished memories. We give thanks that with you there is always a new beginning, a way where this is no way, hope beyond hope, and life beyond death. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, 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**

### **Words of Institution**

### **Communion**

### **Prayer**

### **\*Hymn** PH 564 "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

1 O beautiful for spacious skies,	God shed His grace on thee,
For amber waves of grain,	And crown thy good with
For purple mountain majesties	*brotherhood
Above the fruited plain!	From sea to shining sea!
America! America!	

2 O beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!

3 O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country  
loved,  
And mercy more than life!

America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine.

4 O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam,  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with  
\*brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

## **Benediction**

**Postlude** Kristin Jones