

**Presbyterian Church of Henderson**

Worship Service 10:00 AM

February 14, 2021

*Gospel of Mark Series*

**Ring of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements** Pastor Eric Hoey

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

**\*Call to Worship** Billie Richert

The glory of God shines like a consuming fire.

**We have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

The voice of God thunders like a mighty storm.

**Out of the cloud, God speaks: This is my beloved Son; listen to him!**

**\*Hymn** PH 376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

3 Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

4 Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**\*Call to Confession**

God alone is righteous; God alone is perfect; God alone is judge. Yet this holy, righteous God comes to us in love, to save us. Rejoicing in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

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

**God of all glory, beauty, and grace, we have tried to hide from you—to hide our faces, to hide our sin—yet you have never hidden your love for us. We have tried to search for you—in temples, in clouds, on mountaintops—yet you have already revealed yourself to us in the face of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, and transform us so that our lives may shine with your glory, beauty, and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Our God comes and does not keep silence; God speaks to us with grace and love, saying: You are my beloved child. This is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

**\*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.

## **\*Passing the Peace**

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

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Speak to us, O Lord our God, and let the fire of your Spirit burn brightly in our hearts. Open our minds to receive the wisdom of the law, the hope of the prophets, and the life of the gospel: Jesus Christ, your living Word. Amen.

## **First Reading**      Psalm 50:1-6

1 The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. 3 Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him. 4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: 5 “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!” 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

## **Special Music**      Piano and Organ Duet Susan Thomas, piano

## **Second Reading**      Mark 6:1-29

1 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. 4 Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” 5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. 6 And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. 7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; 9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. 10 He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” 12 So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. 13 They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” 15 But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. 18 For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. 21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. 22 When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” 23 And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” 24 She went

out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." 25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26 The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

- Last night I was watching the Grand Ole Opry where this one singer, had tattoos all over her arms, chest.
- I was so bust looking and trying to understand her tatoos, that I was no listening to her music.
- I had to look in a different direction so that I could listen to her words.
- Ever had a teacher that something on (stain on clothes, that distracted you from hearing what was important for that day?
- Today, we are looking at the life of Jesus where he was gaining in popularity, and he goes to his own home town.
- Jesus came from a little town called Nazareth.
- Jesus began teaching in a local church/synagogue.
- But the people of the town had a problem.
- They could only see the little boy growing up in their town that they did not hear his message.
- There are a lot of things that will distract us from learning about Jesus...computers, phones, text messages, video games etc.
- We will not hear the message until we put away the things that take away our attention.

[click]

### **SERMON**      "Responding to the Truth"

Mark 6:1-29

- We continue in our series on "What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus"
- In order to follow Jesus as we have seen in the Book of Mark, a person had to accept him and his words as the truth.
- *[click] John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
- What is really interesting throughout our studies in Mark is that every demon Jesus casted out, they knew exactly who he was—
  - The demon in the synagogue in Capernaum said, "I know who you are—the Holy One of God"
  - The demons on the Gerasenes region said, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God"
- In each case, the demons knew, beyond a shadow of doubt, his name and from where he had come.
- However, what is really interesting when you study the Book of Mark is "Jesus the Holy One of God" "Son of the Most High God" had come in the flesh before their very eyes, yet many people still refused to understand.
- Jesus had performed miracles, forgiven sins, challenged the Levitical law, and cast out demons, yet people still did not believe.
- They had trouble understanding who he was.
- They had difficulty hearing the truth that came from the Son of God.
- In today's text, we will look at various ways people responded to the truth found only in Jesus

[click] **1. Hindered by the Truth** (vv. 1-6)

[click] *1 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded.*

- Jesus came to his hometown of Nazareth where his family lived.
- On the Sabbath, Jesus taught in the synagogue in same manner he normally would in other towns.
- When the townspeople, who probably knew him when Jesus was a child, heard him teach, they were astonished because they did not know how he gained in such knowledge.
- Please understand, Nazareth, was a small, simple village in the middle of nowhere.
- It was not a city center with the highest educated people, but a town where very simple people lived and worked everyday.
- As you can see, it was a huge surprise that the village artisan they once knew had now become like a public figure teaching in the Synagogue like the Scribes.

[click] *6:2 They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary*

- Jesus' teaching brought mixed reactions from the townspeople.
- Some were amazed, astonished, overwhelmed.
- The words of Jesus evoked a powerful reaction.
- Among those reactions included people who failed to see Jesus as anything other than the boy they knew growing up in their town.
- The phrase "Is not this THE carpenter?" is a derogatory question.
- They are saying, "He is a common laborer like the rest of us, how could he ever be a teacher?"
- The question "Isn't this Mary's son?" Is also derogatory since it was not customary among Jews to describe a man as the son of his mother, even if she was a widow.
- For Mary's name to be given, it is used to insult.
- Their words suggested they knew there was something unusual about Jesus' birth and the rumor, that was probably circulated during Jesus' lifetime, that he was illegitimate.
- They spent more time arguing about their understanding of Jesus that they failed to listen to his life-transforming words
- Since the townspeople could not explain Jesus as someone greater than who they once knew, they took offense at him finding no reason to believe that He was God's anointed One.
- The last phrase gives a glimpse of Jesus reaction to the people from his own town, "And he was amazed at their unbelief."
- This hometown account is a surprise to the reader because you would think that the people who knew him the most would ultimately see Jesus as the Son of God, but just the opposite occurred.
- Those most familiar to Jesus could not see Jesus nor trust the words that he said.
- This is an indirect warning to those of us who have grown up in the church or been going to church all our lives.
- We become so familiar to church and Jesus that we do not trust the very words of the Son of the Most High God.
- These are the people who were "Hindered by the Truth" of Jesus.

[click] Ways people responded to the truth in Jesus

1. Hindered by the Truth (vv. 1-6)

**2. Denial of the Truth** (vv. 14-29)

- In this section of text, I wanted to jump ahead to the end so that we can look at a very detailed picture of King Herod

[click] *14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at*

work in him.” [click] 15 But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

- The beginning of this text Mark shows us various opinions of what people are thinking about Jesus.
  - Some say that he was John the Baptist raised from the dead.
    - I find this positions absolutely fascinating that the people of this time could actually believe that a man could die and be resurrected to come back to life.
    - If they could think and believe something that wildly unreasonable, Mark was probably eager to show them what Jesus Christ could and will do.
  - Others said he was Elijah
  - Still others said that Jesus was a prophet.
- Despite the advice of everyone’s opinion Herod who was troubled by a guilty conscience, remained convinced that Jesus was John the Baptist which was the man he had beheaded.
- So the remaining verses are like a flashback of how John the Baptist was executed.
- What is interesting here is how Mark portrays the life of John the Baptist.
- In chapter one, Mark uses five verses to describe John the Baptist’s ministry, and here in this text he uses fourteen verses to describe his death.
- Mark uses far more real estate to explain his death than his ministry.
- This allows some scholars to believe that Mark was using John the Baptist as a foreshadow to the death a resurrection of Jesus.
- So in the New Testament, there are two passion narratives: the passion of John and the passion of Jesus Christ.
- Let’s look at Herod’s recall of the death of John the Baptist.

[click] 17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. 18 For John had [click] been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, [click] knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

- John the Baptist had been arrested by Herod who put him in prison because John’s confrontation of Herod’s adulterous marriage with Herodias who was his brother’s wife.
- Mosaic Law prohibited marriage to a brother’s wife while the brother was still alive.
- John, in his service to God, incurred the wrath of Herod by calling out Herod’s sin.
- Herodias becomes infuriated and plotted to have John killed, but Herod protected him because of John’s righteous and holy character.
- Then a perfect opportunity for Herodias fulfill her evil plot to kill John the Baptist occurred during Herod’s birthday party.
- Herodias sent her daughter to dance before Herod and his guests.
- Herod was so pleased at her performance, before his guests, he offered her anything she wanted.
- The daughter left to consult with her mother who asked for the head of John the Baptizer.
- She immediately went back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”
- Notice how the daughter adds two things to her mother’s request: “at once” and “on a platter.”
- It feels like they were working together.
- Herod, who immediately knew he had been set up by Herodias, could had stopped it all by saying, “I promised YOU favor with a gift, I did not promise to commit a crime.”
- Or he could have said, “I promised YOU, not your mother, a gift.” “How could I commit this great wickedness and sin against God.”
- The escalation of the story could have been thwarted, but because of Herod’s stubborn pride before all his guests, he ignored his conscience and ordered John’s execution.

- Herod's actions is a complete denial of the truth that had confronted him.
- One person succeeded in stopping one voice of truth, but Mark is telling us the truth continues spread as we will see in the next section of text.

[click] Ways people responded to the truth in Jesus

1. Hindered by the Truth (vv. 1-6)
2. Denial of the Truth (vv. 14-29)

### **3. Sent with the Truth** (vv. 6-13)

[click] *Then he went about among the villages teaching. 7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.*

- Remember back in [click] [Mark 3:14](#) *And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message,*
- Jesus chose his disciples with the purpose to be sent out to proclaim his message.
- Now the time has come for his disciples to be sent out in teams of two. Why in twos?
- The reason may be that in Israel, the law demanded two witnesses for any testimony.
- Jesus also gave his disciples authority over evil spirits.
- They did not go out under their own authority, but under the authority of Jesus.
- The disciples' ability to cast out demons was used to authenticate their preaching.
- Whatever they did will be effective only in so far as it is an extension of Jesus work.

[click] *8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; 9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.*

- Shepherds and the poor often wore two tunics, one as an undergarment and the other as an outer garment that doubled as a bedroll.
- Jesus is telling them to leave their bedroll at home.
- The urgency of their mission required them to travel lightly.
- Mark seems to suggest that for the disciples to preach the kingdom of God that it left no time to fuss about food or accommodation.
- Because those who preached the message of God were completely dependent on the hospitality and accommodation of others.
- This was a sign of their interest in the message
- Jesus wanted the disciples to trust God for their provisions in the same way Jesus himself trusted God while he slept during a storm.

[click] *10 He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is [click] on your feet as a testimony against them."*

- When the disciples were rejected in a village, they were to leave and shake the dust off their feet.
- Devout Jews did this when they left Gentile territory to show that they were dissociating themselves from it.
- Here, the disciples were to do it as a solemn legal witness of that particular town to the rejection of the gospel.
- This action would tell Jewish hearers they were acting like pagans in rejecting the disciple's message.
- At the end of the text, Mark offers a summary of the ministry of the disciples that was patterned Jesus' own ministry:
  1. They preached repentance
  2. Drove out demons
  3. Healed the sick
- By these activities, they were demonstrating that the kingdom of God had come near with incredible power.
- In this section of text, you see people committed to following Jesus by going anywhere he told them to go to be the legal representation of the truth of the message of Jesus Christ

[click] Ways people responded to the truth in Jesus

1. Hindered by the Truth (vv. 1-6)

2. Denial of the Truth (vv. 14-29)
3. Sent with the Truth (vv. 6-13)

## Offering

The God who speaks and summons the earth into being now speaks to us, calling us to offer up our lives as a sacrifice of praise.

### \*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

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the light of love around us and the fire of faith within us. As we go forth from this place let our lives reflect the One who is the image of your glory: Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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.

## Ordination and Installation of Elders

### Opening Sentences of Scripture

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served. God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished. To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good. Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

### Statement On Ordination

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service, as deacons, as ruling elders, and teaching elders. Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us, together with the pastor providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance of the church, leadership, and spiritual discernment.

(Ask the elder-elects to come forward)

Representing the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the Session of the Presbyterian Church of Henderson—

Ordains **Billie Richert** and **Bobby Adler** to the office of elder, and installs them to active service.

Installs **David Williams** to active service who has been previously ordained.

**Constitutional Questions** Eric

1. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Do you? **I do.**
2. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? Do you? **I do.**
3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our Church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? Do you and will you? **I do and I will.**
4. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? Will you? **I will.**
5. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? Will you? **I will.**
6. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? Will you? **I will.**
7. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the Church? Do you? **I do.**
8. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? Will you? **I will.**
9. Will you be a faithful teaching elder, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith, and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the Church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? Will you? **I will.**

### Questions To the Congregation

Do you, the members of the church, accept **Billie Richert, Bobby Adler, and David Williams** as elders chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do you, agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guides you, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? Do you? **We do.**

### Prayer and Laying on of Hands

(Elders-elects to kneel down the center isle spread apart and all teaching and previous ruling elders to come to center isle and lay hands)

### Ordination/Installation Prayer

God of grace, pour out your Holy Spirit on **Billie, Bobby, and David**, that *they* may be your faithful elders in the church. Give *them* prudence and sound judgment, wisdom and courage to order the life of the church in obedience of your Word. Nourish *them* in the life of the Holy Spirit, that *they* may exercise the ministry of discipline with humility and compassion. Guide *them* in governance, on this Session and in every court of the church that *they* may be servant leaders following Christ who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life to set others free. Give *them* joy in their walk of faith and a sure sense of your abiding presence for *their* work of ministry.

### Declaration

**Billie, Bobby, and David** you are now active elders of the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ. Amen.

(Have them return to their seats)

### **Recognition of Outgoing Elders**

We also want to recognize **Cj Maple, Ruth Clum** for their terms of service to our church. On behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Henderson, we thank you for your faithfulness to the church.

### **Prayers of the People**

Mighty and merciful one, you have come to us in glory; now we come to you in prayer, offering our requests to you.

We pray for your glorious creation.... Stamp out fires of destruction, drive away clouds of pollution, and restore the beauty of this world.

We pray for the body of Christ.... Open our hearts in faith, enlighten our minds with knowledge, and strengthen us to proclaim the gospel.

We pray for the people of all nations.... Show the nations your vision of justice, offer the leaders your mantle of wisdom, and give the people your blessing of peace.

We pray for those who are perishing.... Feed those who are starving, comfort those who are suffering, and receive the dying into your arms.

We pray for those whom we love.... Bless our families, friends, and neighbors, help them in times of trouble, and be near when they are afraid.

Lastly, we pray for the elders that ordained and installed today...Give them wisdom to lead our church and discern your will.

Holy One, make us ready for the day when this world is transfigured, transformed, made new—when all things will shine in the dazzling light of your glory; through Jesus Christ our 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.

### **\*Hymn** PH 335 "Though I May Speak"

1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain;  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2 Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,

But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship and are freed.

### **\*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)