

# Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 am

June 7, 2020

*Trinity Sunday (Year A)*

## Ringing of the Bell

**Welcome and Announcements**      Pastor Eric

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

**\*Call to Worship**      Bob Clum

Let us praise God the Creator,

**who is filled with glory and power—with holiness and splendor;**

Let us worship God the Savior,

**who is filled with love and compassion—with justice and peace;**

Let us experience God the Spirit,

**who fills us with faith and joy—with love and eternal life.**

**\*Hymn**      PH 138 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise  
to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore  
Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns

around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down  
before Thee,

Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt  
be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness  
hide Thee,

Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory  
may not see,

Only Thou art holy; there is none  
beside Thee

Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in  
earth, and sky, and sea;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

**\*Call to Confession**

Creation displays the glory of God, but our sin keeps us from rejoicing in the love God reveals. Yet Christ Jesus the Son carried our sins to the cross, and the Holy Spirit breathes new life into us so that we can praise God, our Maker, Savior, and life-giving Spirit. Let us confess our sins, that we may receive such grace.

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

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God who is Three in One, we confess that we have turned away from you. We gaze upon ourselves as if we are worthy of worship. We take your creation into our hands, not to love, but to use and then to discard. We go to the people of the land, not to serve, but to press them into our service. We do not deserve that you would even notice us, but we pray for mercy because you are merciful.**

**Holy Father, purify us from sin; Precious Jesus, lead us to your truth; Holy Spirit, baptize us into union with you. Transform us into faithful disciples who worship you alone, God who is Trinity. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

The Holy One of Israel, the Redeemer of all the world, and the Holy Spirit who comes as the breath of new life forgets the sins of all who repent. I declare to you, therefore, that we are forgiven, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

**\*Passing the Peace**

*Rather than going around the room and shaking hands, for the Passing of the Peace, turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— "The peace of Christ be with you"*

**\*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.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Sing into our ears, O Spirit, the holy word of life. Tell us who we are and to whom we belong so that we may live with gratitude for all that you have done. Amen.

**First Reading**      Psalm 8:1-9

1 O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. 2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; 4 what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. 6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, 7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, 8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

9 O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Second Reading**      2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

### **Third Reading**      Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

### **SERMON**      "God's Redemptive Plan for the Church"

Matthew 28:16-20

- There is a latin word "missio" which means sending.
- This is where we get our word mission.
- Mission is rooted in the nature of God, who SENDS and saves.
- Throughout the Bible, God has always been known to be a sending God.
- The Hebrew word to send "shelach" is found over 800 times.
- Throughout the Old Testament, prophets were sent by God
- EX: *Isaiah 6:8* Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
- At the end of the Old Testament *Malachi 3:1* See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me
- In the New Testament Jesus is sent by God with the purpose is to send others
- *John 20:21* Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
- From Genesis 12 to Revelation 22 there are literally hundreds of examples that portray God as a sending God.
- In the act of sending, God accomplishes and advances His redemptive plan.
- In the gospels, you will find God sending His Son
- Later you see, God the Father and the Son sending the Spirit
- And now in the Great Commission text, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (The holy trinity or the full expression of God) sending the church
- What can we learn about the church in this classic text?

#### **1. The Church is NOURISHED by the PRESENCE of Christ** (vv. 16-17)

*16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.*

- Jesus' ministry begins on a mountain with his temptation in the wilderness, and now ends on a mountain.
- Throughout his ministry according to Matthew, significant events occurred on a mountain
- The temptation, the Sermon on the Mount, the transfiguration, Jesus final discourse on the Mount Olives, and now this final parting scene
- In the Old Testament, we will find Moses and Elijah both met God on a mountain
- So a mountain top experience is quite common in Scripture, and this morning it paints the backdrop for Jesus' final words to his disciples.
- This is the last chapter of Jesus' life on earth
- It is the end of the training of his disciples

- This moment on the mountain marks the beginning of the new era of the church where Jesus has passed the baton to his disciples and now they are to run with it.
- The eleven disciples, minus Judas, go to this mountain in Galilee that Jesus told them to go.

*17 When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted.*

- The word for worshipped means to lay prostrate before Jesus.
- What has questioned many theologians is the phrase, "but some doubted."
- Towards the end of Jesus ministry, there were many of his close disciples and followers who doubted Jesus' resurrection:
  - Peter running to the tomb when the women initially reported the tomb was empty
  - Luke reports Luke 24:10-11 *Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.*
  - Doubting Thomas
- A better understanding is that not all of the disciples were able to identify that the man was Jesus.
- For in the very next verse 18, "Jesus **came** and said to them."
- It seems like Jesus came to them to get closer so that there was full identification of who he was.
- Regardless of the why some doubted, what is clear is that on this mountain, his disciples worshipped him.
- It was people like Mary and the disciples who fell down in total adoration of Jesus.
- They were lost in wonder, love, and praise of Jesus.
- In order to understand and be a part of God's redemptive plan, we must come to this place of worship where Jesus nourishes us with the full reality of who he is and what he has done for us.
- Friends, this Great Commission, which we will see later, springs from worship where Jesus nourishes, fuels, and inspires us to be sent into the world.

## **2. The Church is FUELED by the AUTHORITY of Christ (v. 18)**

*18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

- The authority of Jesus is a major theme in Matthew's gospel.
  - Jesus first begin his ministry as a teacher who had authority (7:29)
  - Jesus' miracles demonstrate his authority by his deeds.
  - Jesus even has God's authority to forgive sin (9:6)
  - In chapter 10, Jesus imparts his authority temporarily to his apostles as they went out on their mission to neighboring towns
  - We also find Jesus demonstrating his authority in the use of the Scriptures much to the anxiety of the religious leaders
  - And towards the end of his life, Jesus demonstrated ultimate authority over death through his resurrection
- Jesus is shown to be the Son of Man, King of the Jews, Messiah, Son of God, the glorious risen one.
- When Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me"

- If you think about it, this is a profound and powerful statement Jesus applies to himself.
- More authority that the devil was promising in the temptation of Christ, more authority than a ruler
- Here Jesus is claiming ALL POWER and the right to exercise it.
- Now in our text, Jesus imparts his authority to his followers.
- The original disciples and us today are his empowered representatives.
- The Church today is fueled by the authority of Christ.
- EX: There is rumor floating across the internet that each year the value of Monopoly money far exceeds the value of real US paper currency. Chad Upton writes in his Broken Secrets website: "I was reading a recent story on cnbc.com and one "fact" seemed particularly unbelievable. It stated that each year, Parker Brothers prints more MONOPOLY money than the US government prints real currency. They even went so far as to say, "You can bet your little, old shoe that money fact is true!" Well, after Chad Upton's research, he was able to prove that the statement is false because the US government prints far more money than Monopoly money has ever printed.
  - Unfortunately, monopoly money is of no use in the real world.
  - Not because of the inferior paper on which it is printed, or the cheap ink which is used to manufacture it, but because it lacks the backing of the United States Treasury.
  - If the US Treasury backed the Monopoly money, then we can all own houses and hotels on Boardwalk, Park Place, and Pennsylvania Avenue.
  - It is the authority of the government that gives our paper money its value.
- In the same way, when Jesus says "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me," there is nothing in the universe that is more authoritative than Jesus' statement about himself.
- The same authority that was bestowed upon Jesus turns to us today with the Great Commission on the basis of that authority.

### **3. The Church is SENT with the MISSION of Christ (vv. 19-20)**

*19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*

- Since the NT was written in Greek, in a Greek sentence, the first verb drives the remainder of the sentence.
- In this case, the word "GO" emphatically is in the first position.
- The grammar of the word is best rendered, "when you have gone"
- So going is part of the central command to make disciples.
- Notice, that when Jesus offers the Great Commission, with all the authority on heaven and on earth, Jesus commissions his disciples to GO
- They were not to remain in the upper room and talk all the good times they had with Jesus, but they were to cross boundaries to make disciples
- Notice that the scope of Jesus's commission, "all nations"
- With the words "all nations," Matthew's gospel returns to the theme introduced in the very first verse, *Matthew 1:1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

- Remember in Genesis 12:3 *I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you **all the families of the earth** shall be blessed.*
- What is significant here is that the blessings promised to and through Abraham, back in Genesis, to all peoples on earth are now to be fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah.
- Now in the Great Commission, the disciples are to complete that responsibility, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”*
- His followers were to make disciples by doing two things: baptizing and teaching.
- Q: Why is baptism so critical in this Great Commission?
- The reason for this is because the disciples were to call NOT for a superficial response but for a **total commitment** to the new community that is affirmed by baptism, and to a life governed by *“everything I have commanded you.”*

#### 4. The Church is **SUSTAINED** by the **PROMISE** of Christ (v. 20)

*And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

- God desires to be among his people.
- In the Old Testament:
  - To Moses- Exodus 3:12 *He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you”*
  - To Joshua- Joshua 1:5 *No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.*
- Even in the Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus assures the church of his constant and comforting presence:
  - At the beginning of the gospel, 1:23 - *“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”*
  - In the middle of the Gospel, 18:20 *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”*
  - At the end, 28:20 *And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age*
- At the conclusion of this Gospel of Matthew, if a person takes the time to understand how God’s redemptive plan unfolds through people, and ultimately through Jesus, we can easily feel the impact of God’s hand in history from the very beginning.
- God has been in the business of calling and sending people to advance His redemptive plan.
- The great blessing about those who respond to God calling, the promise of the presence of God is what drives people used by God forward through thick or thin

The Church is —

1. NOURISHED by the Presence of Christ (vv. 16-17)
2. FUELED by the Authority of Christ (v. 18)
3. SENT with the Mission of Christ (vv. 19-20)
4. SUSTAINED by the Promise of Christ (v. 20)

## Offering

Jesus sends his disciples into the world to bless all by his grace. With God's love, in the Holy Spirit, let us make this our offering to God.

### \*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

For all that you have given us, we thank you, gracious God. For day and night, evening and morning, for land and sea, for fish and birds, plants and animals, for humankind, and for your Son, who came among us with the gift of life abundant. Let your Holy Spirit abide in our midst and work through our gifts, that all people may have joy and peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### \*Affirmation of Faith (Apostle's Creed)

*Minister:*

Friends 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

Let us come before the Lord offering our requests to God the Father: Son, and Holy Spirit by saying God of all goodness, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for our world, which you made and renewed in the power of Jesus' resurrection. Make us wise and careful of your gifts as we live on Earth. God of all goodness, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that the love which passes ceaselessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the life of each Christian and draw us all into your unending life. God of all goodness, **hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the church: for Protestants, Roman Catholics, and the Orthodox; for Sunday school children and youth; for the elderly whose wise counsel is sorely needed in all ages; and for all ecumenical endeavors that seek to bring us closer to each other and to you. God of all goodness, **hear our prayer.**

For our families, our households, and our communities, that your life together— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— may show us the like importance of each of us, and so strengthen us in your grace and truth. God of all goodness, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those who suffer in any way; for those who struggle to pay rent or a mortgage; for those who have no home; for those who are neglected and abused in our communities; for people who long for family and are instead alone; for children who do not have a good guide to raise them up; and for whatever else you see that we need. God of all goodness, **hear our prayer.**

For all those who are affected by the death of George Floyd, COVID19, the violence across our country, God bring peace to this nation. God of all goodness, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we entrust all that is of concern this day, sure that you hear our pleas, grateful that your will be done on earth as in heaven. We pray this in the name of the Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, 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 514 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,  
Reaching out with a shout of joy:  
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

2 Christ is able to make us one.  
At the table He sets the tone,  
Teaching people to live to bless,  
Love in word and in deed express.  
(Refrain)

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe  
again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere! (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.

**\*Organ Postlude** (Please be seated during the Postlude)