

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

February 7, 2021

Gospel of Mark Series

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

Organ Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

*Call to Worship Billie Richert

Have we not known? Have we not heard?

Has it not been told to us since the beginning?

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint.

*Hymn PH 482 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;

Praise Him in glad adoration!

2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been

Granted in what He ordaineth?

3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.

Let the Amen sound from His people again,

Gladly for aye we adore Him.

*Call to Confession

We fool ourselves if we think that our ways are hidden from God. Therefore let us confess our sin, trusting in the mercy of God our Maker.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

God, you are everlasting, the creator of all that is. Your understanding is beyond measure. We confess to you that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. In your compassion, forgive us, for we place our hope in your steadfast love.

*Assurance of Pardon

Praise the Lord! Our God heals the brokenhearted and binds up our wounds.

God takes pleasure in those who place their trust in God's grace. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*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

Holy God, speak to us what has been told from the beginning, your Word that is the foundation of the world. Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 40:21-31

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; 23 who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25 To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. 30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; 31 but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Second Reading Mark 4:35-5:43

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

1 They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. 2 And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. 3 He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; 4 for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. 5 Night and

day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; 7 and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." 8 For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." 10 He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; 12 and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." 13 So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

14 The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. 17 Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. 18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. 19 But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

21 When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. 22 Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet 23 and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." 24 So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. 25 Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. 26 She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." 29 Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. 30 Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" 31 And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" 32 He looked all around to see who had done it. 33 But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

35 While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" 36 But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." 37 He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. 38 When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. 39 When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and

weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” 40 And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” 42 And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. 43 He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

SERMON “He is God”

Mark 4:35-5:43

February 7, 2021

- We have been going through a series from the Gospel of Mark called “What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus”
- Jesus, the Emmanuel, the God with us, comes into the world, calls people to repentance, upsets the established religion, clears the strongholds Satan, and performs miracles no one has ever seen.
- Yet, Mark is about how people responded the God incarnate, and it is a testimony to how we today can “Follow Jesus”
- In the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, Mark tells about his gaining popularity in chapter 1.
- In chapter 2, Mark goes on to describe the rising tension among the religious leaders where they are plotting to destroy him.
- Last week in chapters 3-4, we saw how Mark called his disciples and used parables to train his “true family of God.”
- In this section of text we will see the miracles Mark used to authenticate the authority of Jesus.
- Miracles of this type often present the greatest problem to people today.
- The New Testament makes clear that Jesus Christ is not only Lord over his church but also Lord of all creation.
- To explain these miracles of the sovereign Lord as coincidence, myth, or imagination is completely inadequate
- If Jesus was, as he claimed to be, the Son of God, a miracle of this kind is not inconsistent with that claim.
- Let us look, as the kingdom of God has come near, the presence of God’s sovereign rule in Jesus is displayed in the following miraculous events.

[click]

1. Jesus’ Authority Over Nature (vv. 4:35-41)

[click] 35 *On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.”* 36 *And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.*

- Before I talk about this text where Jesus calms the storm, many have criticized this text as pure fiction, but if you look closely, you will notice very specific phrases that do not add meaning to this account but could only come from someone who was actually there.
- See if you are able to spot those specific items.
- Toward the end of the day, Jesus and his disciples get into a boat to go to the other side.

- Jesus was probably fatigued from preaching, healing and casting out demons, and simply wanted to get away from the crowds.
- Now Mark, inserts a specific phrase that has no use in the story, that proves to me that Marks writings was NOT a work of fiction.
- The phrase, "Other boats were with him."
- But from Mark's perspective, who wants to highlight how Jesus was the Son of God, he includes this trivial phrase for us to see that there were other eyewitnesses (not just the 12) to this particular account.

[click] *37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"*

- In this particular area, the geography around the Sea of Galilee makes it particularly susceptible to sudden, violent storms.
- This large lake is situated in a basin surrounded by mountains.
- When winds rushed through the valleys between the mountains, it created a wind tunnel effect that could easily whip the sea into high waves.
- That is exactly what happened.
- The waves were so high that water was being taken into the boat.
- People onboard the boat were panicking.
- But Jesus after a long day of ministry is in the stern of the boat, probably below deck, asleep on a cushion (the cushion is another detail that only an eyewitness could have seen).
- By the way, if we were to ever have lunch together after church, I have been known to be very quiet....because I am waiting for my nap on the stern of my couch.
- The seasoned fishermen woke up Jesus out of sheer terror for their own lives.
- Their rebuke sounded like they were blaming Jesus for sleeping in the midst of the violent storm.
- Mark here makes a beautiful contrast—the peaceful rest of Jesus vs. the violent storm outside and a crew who believed they were going to die.
- Jesus is resting because of his faith as compared to people who were panicking because of their lack of faith.
- Jesus was not worried about the storm but was resting in God.
- When life throws you around like tiny boat on a massive sea, our trust must be in the one who has authority over every situation.

[click] *39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*

- Jesus wakes up and "rebuked" the wind and spoke to the sea to be silent.
- In the same way Jesus was able to rebuke a demon from the demon possessed man, Jesus rebukes the wind and the sea.
- In the calming of the sea miracle, Mark is emphasizing that Jesus is lord of creation and has authority over the spiritual realm as well as the natural realm.
- The bewilderment of the disciples underscores the fact that those closest to Jesus did not quite understand that they were sitting with he Son of God.
- Notice how divine miracles does not secure a deeper relationship to Jesus, but a deeper relationship is secured by greater faith

[click] God's sovereign rule is displayed in—

2. Jesus' Authority Over Demons (vv. 5:1-20)

- In this long section of text, Mark quickly connects the wild nature of the sea to the wild nature of the demon possessed man.
- When the boats came to the other side of the sea, they were now in Gentile territory.
- This is the first time in Mark, Jesus' ministry extends to the Gentiles.
- When they got out of their boats, they encountered a man with an evil spirit who lived among the tombs and was captive to the powers of evil and beyond any human help.
- Jesus had been approached with demon possessed people, but for the first time, this person was tormented and destructive to himself.
- If there were zombies in the Bible, this would be the closest description of zombie like people with living among the dead.
- In one sense, Mark is painting a powerful picture of how the New Testament describes the condition of humans apart from Christ: spiritually dead and in bondage to evil.

[click] *6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; 7 and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." 8 For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"*

- Here we see the helpless condition of the man and the powerful grip of the demons offering the basis to show the extent of Jesus' sovereign power and authority.
- What is interesting here is that Mark, in a matter of fact, tells that Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out of the person.
- You see if I were writing about this miracle to make Jesus look like a miracle worker, I would have written, "Then Jesus said...Come out of the man, you unclean spirit" because the pinnacle of the story is right here.
- Similar to other encounters with demons, they fully recognize Jesus when they call him, "Son of the Most High God," in contrast to the naive understanding of the followers of Jesus who say, "we have never seen anything like this."
- Jesus then has this conversation with the demons where we learn that they were many.
- Because of their fear of Jesus, they requested to be sent into a herd of swine.

[click] *and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine;*

- Notice the authority Jesus had with these demons.
- Like a king granting permission to where could and could not go, Jesus gives them permission to enter the pigs.
- The demons enter the swine, and the pigs run off a steep hill and drown in the sea.
- By the way, this is how we know they were in Gentile country because Jews did not eat pork.
- As a result of the loss of the whole herd, and a man who had been freed by Jesus, the people of the town asked Jesus to leave.

- The people of the town refused to see the living miracle before them and not the miracle's witness to the power and authority of Jesus.
- The next two miracles are told by Mark in a sandwich situation where he begins one story, stops, tells another story, and then picks up the previous story.
- Let's skip to the second story or the meat of the sandwich.

[click] God's sovereign rule is displayed in—

3. Jesus' Authority Over the Incurable (vv. 5:25-34)

- In the account of the hemorrhaging woman, she had an incurable situation
- She had spend all her money to find a cure.
- Mark emphasizes vivid details about this woman: she was a woman, she suffered much, had been treated by many doctors, spent all she had, and her condition had gotten worse.
- She was also ceremoniously unclean because of her bleeding for 12 years.
- She heard about Jesus and **believed** that if she touched his garment she would be healed.
- Mark clearly portrays in this destitute woman had only one last reason for her hope, Jesus
- Avoiding social contact she secretly touched him from behind and is immediately healed.
- Jesus realizes that someone touched him and insists on knowing who it was.
- The women falls to the ground, and told him the whole story.

[click] *34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."*

- Jesus tells the woman that "her faith has made her well," and to go in peace.
- Notice Jesus did not rebuke the woman for touching him and making him unclean.
- This was huge because an unclean person was not permitted to be around a holy person.
- She essentially made her unclean.
- The compliance of the Jewish purity laws was not the issue here, but everything about the trust and faith of the woman who risked everything to be made whole.
- Q: How much are we willing to risk, to be made whole by Jesus?

[click] God's sovereign rule is displayed in—

4. Jesus' Authority Over Death (5:21-24, 35-43)

- In these verses, we find the petition of a synagogue leader who fell at his feet and begged Jesus repeatedly to lay his hands on his daughter.

[click] *23 ... "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live."*

- Similarly to the hemorrhaging woman, Jairus, a Jewish leader, had to depend upon himself to trust Jesus regardless of what others may think of him.
- Remember the religious leaders were plotting to destroy Jesus!
- Jairus was risking his status and position, basically everything to trust Jesus
- So here we have two very different people: in sex, status, public recognition, method of trusting Jesus, their situation and needs, approach to Jesus, and manner in which Jesus minister to them.
- The two people could not be any more different.

- But what was in common was the implicit trust in Jesus to do something for them
 - What is interesting here is when we look at the wider context:
 - The Jewish leaders plot against him
 - Some of his family doubt him
 - His disciples stumble along sometimes understanding Jesus and sometimes not
 - In the midst of this context this sandwich story occurs we find trust and faith in these two stories
 - Here, a synagogue ruler on his way to discover what trust in Jesus can mean
 - Unnamed woman impelled by need—found the secret of faith: trusting Jesus and telling him all.
 - Later in the story, Jesus is told the Jairus' daughter is dead.
 - He says to him to not fear but only believe.
 - He goes back to Jairus' house, and in the presence of Jairus and his wife and a few disciples, Jesus brings the daughter back to life.
- [click] *41 He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" 42 And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement.*
- When Jesus took the dead girl by the hand, which was in violation of the purity laws, Jesus not only declares that he has authority over the religious laws, but also has authority over death.
 - Let me end where I started.
 - Jesus, the Emmanuel, the God with us, comes into the world, calls people to repentance, upsets the established religion, clears the strongholds Satan, and performs miracles no one has ever seen.

[click] God's sovereign rule is displayed in—

1. Jesus' Authority Over Nature (vv. 4:35-41)
2. Jesus' Authority Over Demons (vv. 5:1-20)
3. Jesus' Authority Over the Incurable (vv. 5:25-34)
4. Jesus' Authority Over Death (5:21-24, 35-43)

- Q: How do you respond to Jesus? Is he God to you?
- Do you believe that he has the power to change the world through the changed lives of people who trust him? Do you trust him implicitly with all the faith you can muster?

Offering

Let us give thanks to God by giving 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

We sing to you, God, with thanksgiving, making melody to you with our praise. Use these gifts to spread your gospel near and far, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. 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 the universe, since the beginning of our faith, we have looked to you to gather the outcasts, heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. So we pray for the poor of the world, the sick and the lonely.

God, you build up Jerusalem, and so we pray for our country, for all the countries of the world, and for all of our leaders. May we all come to see that your delight is not in the strength of the military but in those who hope in your steadfast love.

How good it is to sing praises to you, O God.

We pray for your church, here and around the world. Empower us to go from town to town, proclaiming the message of Christ.

Everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth, we bless you, for you are gracious. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, 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.

Refrain:

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

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)

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 for the postlude)