

Presbyterian Church of Henderson
Worship Service 10:00 AM
February 28, 2021 - Second Sunday in Lent
Gospel of Mark Series

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

- Thinking ahead to Easter it is time to order Easter Lilies. If you want to purchase a Lily in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one, orders are due by Friday, March 17th. Cost is \$10.00 each. Please send your order to the church office.

Organ Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

***Call to Worship**

Christ died for our trespasses but was raised for our justification.

Thanks be to God.

Come let us celebrate the goodness of God.

We worship the Lord with our whole hearts!

***Hymn** PH 356 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1 Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

***Call to Confession**

This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ.

***Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we me know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you 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

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Gen. 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” 3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4 “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Gen. 17:15 God said to Abraham, “As for Sarah your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Special Music “Lenten Medley” arr. Anderson

Second Reading Mark 8:31-9:8

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of

them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Children’s Sermon Pastor Eric

- Have you ever used a set of these?
- These are ear protectors that we use when people ring the bell outside.
- When you ring the bell it is so loud, it hurts your ears without this over your ears.
- What would happen if your walked around the house with these on?
- If your mom tried to talk to you, you would only see lips moving and not hear her say anything.
- Today, we are learning about the transfiguration of Jesus where we see Jesus with all his glory.
- A voice occurs from heaven saying, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”
- What is the best way to listen to Jesus?
- Through the word of God.
- Going to Sunday school, listen when we talk about Jesus in the children message.
- Whenever you hear Jesus tell us something, God tells us to listen.

SERMON “Full Self-Disclosure”

Mark 8:31-10:52

February 28, 2021

- We have come to the watershed moment in the Gospel of Mark.
- The incident at Caesarea Philippi stands at the center of the gospel of Mark at the midpoint of the chapters.
- Everything prior to this point Mark has been showing us the reality of the divinity of Jesus Christ and how he is the Son of God the Messiah.
- In fact, the disciples came to this conclusion when Jesus asked them, “Who do YOU say that I am?”
- Peter makes this astounding affirmation that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah.
- From this point onward in Mark, we see Jesus breaking the perceptions that his kingdom will not be a physical, political kingdom but something entirely different than what they would expect.
- Geographically, Jesus reached the furthest most Northern point in his ministry, and actually turn back toward Jerusalem to face his messianic mission: the ultimate destiny of his suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection.
- From this point onward to his disciples, Jesus reveals who he really is, and what will happen to him in order for his kingdom to become a new reality.

- Let's look at some of the things that Jesus reveals.

[click]

1. The Way of Jesus (8:31-33)

[click] 31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

- After Peter's confession, Jesus began to teach his disciples what being the Messiah meant.
- For the first time in Mark, Jesus reveals what will happen to him
- Contrary to popular messianic expectations, Jesus did not come to establish an earthly messianic kingdom
- This is why Jesus calls himself "Son of Man."
- It is a humble term so that he does not draw attention to being associated with the physical kingdom.
- Instead, he declared that he would suffer, experience rejection by the religious leaders, and be ultimately killed...and after three days he would rise again.
- Now I can guarantee that the disciples heard nothing about the last part of "after three days rise again" because all of their jaws hit the floor when Jesus told them that he had to be killed.
- Imagine what the disciples had to be feeling!
- Jesus Christ, the Messiah, God incarnate, cannot fail!
- How can Jesus be the Messiah if he had to suffer and ultimately be killed! Who would reign? What use is a dead Messiah?
- The disciples, like everyone else, perceived the kingdom of God was going to be a place where Jesus would rule on earth.
- This why in the next chapter, the disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of God.
- They wanted places of position and authority arguing about who is to sit on his left and right.

[click] 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

- Peter is so surprised at the news about Jesus and his pending death, he pulls Jesus aside to rebuke him.
- The word for rebuke means "to assess a penalty," like a referee would do to a player in violation of the game.
- EX: My kids used to play a lot of soccer. When a player violated the rules, the referee would blow his whistle, and pull a red card to take the player off the field. Peter was pulling a red card on Jesus. "Time out! You cannot die!"
- Jesus offers the strongest chastisement to Peter, and calls him Satan.
- Isn't that kind of strong?
- Peter naively was acting in the role of Satan by stopping the divine plan of God intended for Jesus!!!
- The last time the word Satan is used in Mark is in the parable of the soils
- *[click] Mark 4:15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.*
- That is what Peter did here.

- As soon as Jesus began to speak about his messianic role, Peter prevented him, as if Peter was taking away the word so that it will not be planted into the soil of the disciples.

[click]

2. The Way of the Disciple (8:34-38)

[click] *34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

- As Jesus turns to the crowd as well as his disciples, he tells them that following Jesus has a cost.
- It is the same cost that Jesus needs to face through his own pending suffering and death.
- Jesus teaches there are two requirements for discipleship 1) a denial of self and 2) Taking up one's cross and following Jesus
- To deny oneself means—to cease to make self the object of one's life and actions.
 - God, not self, must be at the center of life.
 - When God is at the center of life, like Jesus, we must seek God's will and submit our will to his will.
- To take up one's cross, was an image of a condemned man under Roman law and forced to carry his own cross to the place of his execution.
- Cross-bearing was not an established Jewish metaphor.
- But the idea was appropriate in Roman-occupied Palestine, in Caesarea Philippi.
- "to take up one's cross" was to demonstrate publicly one's submission/obedience to the authority against which he had previously rebelled.
- In the same way Jesus needed to submit to the will of God and go to the cross, those who follow him must give their whole life over to following Jesus.
- This does not mean we are to suffer like Jesus did or to be crucified as he was, it is obedience to God's will as revealed in His Word.
- It is accepting the consequences of following Jesus without reservations for Jesus' sake and the gospel.

[click] *35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

- These verses explain that discipleship is about leaving one's old allegiance to this life and pledging allegiance to Jesus as a disciple.
- In v. 35 "Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel will save it" means that one who decides to maintain a self-centered life in this world by refusing Jesus requirements will ultimately lose their life.
- If you clutch your life wholly to yourself, protecting it against all others, asserting all your rights, needs and privileges, you lose it because it isn't life any longer.
- However, if you acknowledge that life is not yours by right, that all is privilege, and that it is to be lived in the self-giving love that the gospel story reveals, then, you possess it wholly.

[click]

3. The Glory of Jesus Displayed (9:1-8)

[click] 9:1 And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

- Many scholars have tried to understand the phrase "the kingdom of God has come with power"
 - Jesus' transfiguration
 - Jesus' resurrection
 - Coming of the Holy Spirit
 - The destruction of Jerusalem by Rome in 70 A.D.
 - The second coming of Jesus Christ.
- I would agree William Lane who says that the words "come with power" point to the transfiguration.
- He says 9:1 is not a prophecy about the end of history but a prediction of the transfiguration.
- This would explain that only "some" of them will see the kingdom of God come with power before they die because only Peter, James and John are the ones who experience Jesus' transfiguration.

[click] 2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

- Notice, the specificity of how many days later that Mark recorded the next event.
- The transfiguration occurred on the seventh day after the prediction.
- This day is very familiar to Moses and his experience on a mountain hearing from God.
- *[click] Exodus 24:15-16 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.*
- Jesus transfigures before Peter, James, and John.
- Could this be what Jesus intended to show his disciples when he was walking on water earlier where "he intended to pass them by"?
- As Jesus was transfigured, his clothes became dazzling white which was Jesus' glory.
- Peter later describes his experience with the transfiguration in
- *[click] 2 Peter 1:16-18 we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.*
- The transfiguration provides Mark's readers further evidence that Jesus was the divine Son of God.

[click] 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

- A natural question is why does Moses and Elijah appear at the transfiguration speaking to Jesus?
- Moses was equated with the Old Testament law that God had given to his people.
- Jesus came and fulfilled the commandments of the law and did the things the law could not do, that is, to provide an answer for the problem of sin.
- The law pointed out the problem; Jesus gave the solution.
- *[click] John 1:17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*
- Elijah was an outstanding figure in the Old Testament.

- He was a great prophet and his appearance with Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration testified that Jesus fulfilled the prophets, as well as the law.
- The presence of both attested Jesus' role as Messiah.

[click] 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

- Peter suggests building three shelters, one for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.
- Peter was thinking that the kingdom of God had come, that the end had come, and God was about to bring all the hopes for a new reign of righteousness upon the earth.
- This is why he felt it was appropriate to build booths for the Feast of the Tabernacles
- *[click] Zechariah 14:16 Then all who survive of the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the festival of booths.*
- What is interesting is that Peter, in his own way, was again resisting the suffering which Jesus said would happen before his glory.
- Mark then goes on to explain Peter's actions by saying how frightened they were by the dazzling display of Jesus' glory.

[click] 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

- A cloud appears which usually means the presence of God, and a voice from heaven says, "This is my beloved Son."
- The phrase is exactly the same when God spoke the first time at the baptism of Jesus.
- The words "beloved Son" together with the transfigured appearance of Jesus shows that upon Jesus Himself was unparalleled divine glory and favor.
- The glory Peter, James, and John experienced was a foretaste and assurance of Jesus' true glory.
- Rather than God saying "This is my beloved son whom I am well pleased," he says something different, "Listen to him!"
- In the first half of Mark, the deeds and actions of Jesus was dominant part of his ministry so that Mark could communicate that Jesus was the Son of God.
- Now in the second half of his Gospel, Mark wants us to have our undivided attention to the words of Jesus and to follow in obedience.

Offering

People of God, let us offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving, telling of God's deeds with songs of joy.

***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**

Merciful God, we thank you for your wonderful works among humankind. Accept this offering with the dedication of our lives and help us be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love, in 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

Holy God, you created us in Christ Jesus for good works. Help those who profess faith in Christ to do good in the world, following the way of life you have prepared for those who believe in him.

Your children walk by your light, doing what is true. Yet salvation is not earned by good works, but through trust in your grace. Dispel from your children arrogance of heart, that the world may be drawn to your truth by their humble witness.

In every age you call forth men and women of integrity to lead your people in the way of righteousness. Help pastors and teachers fulfill their calling; give them courage to speak the truth in love, and shield them from temptation to misuse their authority. We pray for pastors and teachers.

God, your reign encompasses all the earth, though the nations may rebel against your justice. Save the nations from the wrath of their disobedience. Help them to dwell in peace and promote the common good. We pray for governments and leaders.

You hear the cry of the sick and the afflicted. Save them from their distress, heal them of their disease, and deliver them from the destructive power of suffering. We pray for all who sorrow in distress.

O God, in Jesus Christ you have shown your love for the world. Receive our prayers. We lay them at your feet praying for your will be done 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 84 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'er take me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

***Benediction**

***Organ Postlude** (please be seated for the postlude)