

# Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

May 9, 2021

*Gospel of Mark Series*

**Happy Mother's Day**

## Ringing of the Bell

**Welcome and Announcements** Pastor Eric Hoey

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

## \*Call to Worship Billie Richert

Sing to our God a new song.

**God has done marvelous things!**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

**Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

**Let the world and its people sing together for joy!**

## \*Hymn PH 473 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise,  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon, and stars of light.  
(Refrain)

3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
For the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight.  
(Refrain)

4 For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild.  
(Refrain)

5 For Thy Church, that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love. (Refrain)

## \*Call to Confession

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

## \*Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts.  
Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled  
with your joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## \*Assurance of Pardon

Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us and calls us his friends. If we can forgive our friends, how much more does Christ forgive us!

**\*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**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your Word, that we would hear what you have to say to us today. May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**First Reading**      Psalm 98:1-9

O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.  
The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

**Special Music**      Wayne Jones

**Second Reading**      Mark 14:1-11

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

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

- Do you know what day it is?
- *Ex. 20:12* - Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you
- To honor your mother means to listen to her.
- Video
- Have all the mother stand, applause
- Prayer
- Give gift

### **Mother's Day Prayer and Gift**

#### **SERMON**      "A Model of Faithfulness"

Mark 14:1-11

- Several years ago, I was at the Kentucky Center of the Performing Arts building, outside in the back.
- If you have ever been there, most of what you see is concrete.
- You have the concrete highway 64 with its high speed traffic and noise associated with it
- You have concrete floors, with concrete planter beds that were mostly unkept that had plants several years old unattended.
- In the midst of all the concrete, I took this picture of a beautiful flower rising up amidst of the cold, grey, hard, concrete of Louisville.
- In the same way, on this Mother's Day, I want to lift up and honor the women in our lives whose character, diligence, patience, and love rise up above everything else similar to this flower in the midst of concrete.
- In this particular section in Mark, he creates these three scenes where each contribute to a crescendo that highlights the ultimate end of Jesus's life.
- Rather than a linear rising message that builds one upon another, Mark uses his familiar "sandwich" structure that highlights the ugliness of the religious establishment, and celebrates an example of a model of faithfulness.

A Model of Faithfulness- (is found in)

## **1. The Ugliness of Self-Righteousness**

*1 It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; 2 for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."*

- This particular text and onward, introduces the passion and resurrection narrative of Jesus
- Passover is a Jewish festival commemorating the occasion when the angel of the Lord passed over the homes of the Hebrews on the night all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians were killed.
- On this particular week of Passover, the lambs used in the feast were slain on Wednesday, and the Passover meal was eaten on Thursday between sundown and midnight.
- So the Passover meal is celebrated first and then right after, the feast of the Unleavened Bread lasted for seven days.
- Since this was a pilgrim celebration, Jews from all over would come to Jerusalem to participate in the celebration.
- Because the crowds favored Jesus and the things he had to say, the chief priests and the scribes made the decision to wait until people have gone home so that they do not upset those visiting the city.
- So they wanted to capture Jesus in secret.
- Because of the egos of these religious leaders, they were threatened by Jesus, we see the ugly side of their character.
- Since they could not win the arguments of Jesus, the next option is to eliminate the threat.
- They wanted to kill him.
- What ever happened to "Thou shall not kill?"
- Was it because they were so self-righteous in trying to keep their corrupt systems pure that they were willing to violate the Sixth Commandment?
- Unbelievable that they were so self-righteous that they could go above the law.
- How not to be a self-righteous people:
  1. Hear, believe, and respond in faith to the words of Jesus.
    - These leaders failed to listen to the words of Jesus.
    - We must put aside pride, and allow the Holy Spirit move you and break you so that God can begin a new work in you.
  2. Obey God's law.
    - These leaders believed they were above God's law.
    - Yes, they probably believed they had to protect the law from the corruption of this Jewish carpenter, but the very rules God puts into place, they were willing to violate.
  3. Fear God more than fearing people.
    - The religious leaders feared people more than they feared God
    - If they felt so strong in their convictions to eliminate Jesus, how come they could not face the consequences for their decision? This tells me that they were not truly respected in the public eye.

A Model of Faithfulness- (is found in)

## 2. The Beauty of a Woman Following Her Heart

3 *While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table,*

- So from the plotting of the men, immediately we see Jesus at table in a home in Bethany
- Jesus is at the house of Simon the Leper
- Not much is known about Simon.
- Some have assumed that he was a person healed by Jesus and offering his hospitality in his home.
- But it is obvious Jesus is not in the house of a Pharisee, but in the home of an outcast or former outcast.
- Jesus still associated with outcasts even up until his last few days on earth.
- What is interesting is that Simon had been healed and spared the financial devastation that often accompanied leprosy.
- Ron Kernaghan in his commentary on Mark says, "The anointing of Jesus is thus set between the abyss of poverty and the hope of salvation."

*a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.*

- According to Mark, nothing is known about the woman.
- She takes this jar of "nard" broke it which means it was meant to be used all at once and poured it over the head of Jesus
- It was customary to anoint the head of an honored guest at a meal, but the woman's act went far beyond normal courtesy
- Nard is actually what is called spikenard.
- It is an essential oil from the root of an Indian plant grown in the Himalaya mountains.
- In this culture, it was considered the best of the best of fragrances.
- *Song of Songs 1:12* *While the king was on his couch, my nard gave forth its fragrance.*
  - In this text between a groom and his bride, the fragrance of the nard implies that above all fragrances in the room, only the brides would matter to the groom.
  - The presence of the nard represented their passion and their desire to have only the best define their love.
- So when the woman poured this precious ointment over Jesus' head because she wanted only the best to define her love for him.
- It has been speculated that this jar may have been her dowry or her inheritance.
- Regardless, it was all that she had of value, and she now pours it over the head of Jesus in love and devotion to him.
- What is fascinating here, is that the word Messiah comes from the Hebrew word meaning the anointed one of God.
- Whether she knew it or not, she was anointing the anointed One.
- Can you imagine, Jesus in a very silent way was finally anointed and recognized as the Messiah!!!
  - If you think about it, her extravagant gift is a picture of the kind of offering expected of each of us.
  - Only the best was worthy of her Lord, and she was willing to give everything as an act of worship.
  - The same should be true of us.

▸ *Numbers 18:29* Out of all the gifts to you, you shall set apart every offering due to the LORD; the best of all of them is the part to be consecrated.

▸ ISW a Mother would give her best in love and devotion for the sake of a child, we are to give up our love and devotion to Jesus as an act of worship.

*4 But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? 5 For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.*

- This next verse describes the reaction of those watching this act of love and devotion.
- We are not sure who said what, but it angered some of the men because (Judas- the money guy) determined that the value was worth more than a years wages for a common laborer.
- From the men's perspective, this was a waste of the use of resources because it could have been sold and given to the poor.
- It could have fed many people!!!!
- So the men "scolded" her!
- These men do not seem to understand this woman's innate language of love through lavishness

*6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me.*

- Jesus rebukes the critics and defended her actions, and called it a beautiful thing that she has done.
- Remember earlier in Mark when Jesus rebukes the disciples when the children were coming up to him?
- Jesus does the same thing again by rebuking those who were upset by the action.
- Why does he stop them? Because Jesus saw the woman opening this rare perfume as an expression of love and devotion, and actually a prophetic Messianic declaration.
- This meant so much to Jesus in light of his final phase of ministry especially with his pending suffering and death!

*7 For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial.*

- The opportunity to love Jesus was running out because he would not be with them much longer as compared to the continuous opportunities for taking care of the poor.
- Jesus had taught much about the poor.
- Here he is not saying to ignore them, however because of his own imminent death, the anointing was a lavish outpouring of love and expense.
- This tells me an important aspect of church life: more important than the things we do for ministry is our love and devotion to God first and foremost.
- Because the religious leaders got it switched.
- They were caught up in the actions of ministry, that they failed to do what is most important: to love God with all of their heart, mind, and soul.

*9 Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."*

- What is interesting is the way Mark highlights the woman's actions, and not so much the woman's name being remembered.

- The absence of her name brought increased focus to her actions of undiluted devotion and generosity.
- All the woman wanted to do was to give honor to Jesus, and it is this undivided devotion to Jesus that WE, the readers, must emulate.

A Model of Faithfulness- (is found in)

### **3. The Ugliness of Betrayal**

*10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. 11 When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.*

- Judas Iscariot is named by Mark.
- He is only mentioned in his gospel three times.
- The first time is in a list of disciples, the second is here, and the third is in the Garden of Gethsemane, Mark 14:43.
- Judas makes a deal with the religious authorities that he would help them capture Jesus with his betrayal.
- Clearly Mark emphasizes that Judas did not act for the money because he was the one who approached the religious leaders first.
- Judas was promised money if they could capture him away from the crowds.
- So we see here is the direct contrast of the faithfulness of the woman and Judas plotting and betraying his own Rabbi.
- In this sandwich story on one side we see the plotting of the religious leaders trying to protect their positions of power and authority, and on the other side we see Judas plotting and scheming against his own master, Jesus.
- In the middle of this ugly sandwich is the incredible beauty of this woman, following her instincts, to lavish Jesus in her love, adoration, and generosity.
- This story is worth noting on Mother's day because it is when one woman gets it right when all around her the men are pathetically getting it wrong.
- This one woman is a model of faithfulness where every man needs to pause, and learn from her beauty.

### **Offering**

Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ's love.

#### **\*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**

Holy God, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends and to know your will in the world. Therefore we pray in Jesus' name that these tithes and offerings spread your love near and far. 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**

We sing for joy, O God, for you are coming to judge the world with righteousness and fairness between nations and between people.

We pray for the poor and the desperate as well as for those who abuse and oppress them, both here and abroad. Comfort those who suffer and chasten those who cause their suffering, that your justice may be known in all the earth.

We pray for families, communities, and nations torn apart by violence. Heal the broken places and imbue your earth with peace.

We pray for the sick and the dying, for those who are friendless and lonely, for those living with grief or depression. Bring them your friendship and renew their joy.

We pray for ourselves, your church, that we may bear fruit of peace, hope, and love, fruit that will last. Now in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our friend, and in the Holy Spirit poured out on us, we sing a new song to praise you for you are doing marvelous things, 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 555 "Now Thank We All Our God"**

1 Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mothers' arms  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;

And keep us in His grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God,  
Who reigns in highest heaven,  
To Father and to Son  
And Spirit now be given.  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heaven adore,  
The God who was, and is,  
And shall be evermore.

**\*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)