

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

June 20, 2021

Happy Father's Day!

Chiming the Hour Kristin Jones, Director of Music
Welcome and Announcements

Handbell Prelude

*Call to Worship

How very good and pleasant it is when sisters and brothers live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, like the dew that falls on the mountains of Zion.

Together, let us worship God.

*Hymn PH 476 "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"

1 O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

2 O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
His chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds
form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the
storm.

3 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;

Hath established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4 Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the
plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

*Call to Confession

We strive to be strong and self-sufficient, but in truth we are in constant need of grace.
In penitence and faith, let us confess our weakness to God and to one another.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Most merciful God, forgive us. We imagine that we can live without you, when you give us our very breath. We seek control over others rather than strive to live in unity. We allow fear to overtake us, even though our lives are in your hands. Draw us back into your steadfast love and shape us into the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, the good news is this: grace is poured out like water; mercy flows like a never-ending stream, bathing us in goodness and love. Live, then, as those who have received new life, rejoicing in your baptism.

*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

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's Peace.

Prayer for Illumination

God of eternity, by the power of your Spirit, speak your Word to us this day, that hearing, we may know your truth and live ever more faithfully for you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Reading Psalm 133:1-3

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Special Music "Carillion for a Joyous Day" Wagner

Second Reading Luke 1:14-17, Matthew 11:1-6

Luke 1:14-17

You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Matthew 11:1-6

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Children's Sermon Pastor Eric
Bible Presentation

Father's Day Gift and Prayer

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

SERMON "The Call to Uncivilized Christianity"

Luke 1:14-17; Matt. 11:1-6

INTRO:

- On Mother's Day after the service, Mark Horton approached me and said that I did such an excellent job with the Mother's Day sermon, can you step up to the plate and do the same for Father's Day?
- Challenge accepted!
- Every year, we read, study, and preach from the texts about the price that Jesus paid for humanity.
- If I was to go around the room and ask the question, "What did it cost Jesus to give us what we have today?"
- Everyone one would say, "He gave his life for us!"
- Correct answer!!!! You have been going to church a long time to learn that.

- HOWEVER, think with me, two thousand years later, the call to follow Christ has been repackaged to be a smooth, civil, and trouble free life, filled with opportunity and promise.
- But it is lacking in something significant: risk, passion, and sacrifice.
- Is this really what Christ died for?
- For example, the more I study the life of Apostle Paul, he lived a life that was so driven and bold, some would say that it was almost uncivilized.
- Jesus never made a pristine call to a proper or safe religion.
- Jesus calls all his followers to a path that is far from the easy road.
- Remember in when we studies Mark at the first time when he told his disciples that he would be killed and after three days rise again?
- Peter pulls him aside and began to rebuke him.
- What did Jesus do? "Get behind me Satan! You do not have the things of God but the things of men."
- Jesus then says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
- Did you hear that!
- Deny self and follow Jesus to the death.
- What is safe, and civil about that?
- The way of Jesus was never to be a quiet, passive, civilized path but a path of adventure, risk, and uncertainty.
- It is a life filled with passion of our love for Jesus that will do anything for Him at the cost of our own lives.
- This risky path is the one that can fulfill the deepest longing and desires of your heart and I believe every man's heart.
- This Father's Day, I feel like a coach of a football team, cheering our players to give 110 percent of themselves.
- Let's look at the life of John the Baptist and see how his life is a model for us to live our lives with adventure, risk, and uncertainty.

1. **Great in the Sight of People** (Luke 1:14-15)

- Let me read some context: *Luke 1:11-13* Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

*14 He will be a joy and delight to **you**, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.*

- Angel of the Lord came to John's father, Zechariah, and prophesied about the coming of his new son John the Baptist.
- He is described as a joy & delight, and great in the sight of the people
- Can you imagine growing up with that kind of expectation? Imposing that expectation upon your child?
- Now after reading the description of John that says, *Matt. 3:4* John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.
- John was a strange dresser and had unusual eating habits
- John looked like a wild man!
- I wonder if he combed his hair in the morning?
- Ever thought about that?
- Why would God pick this guy John who looked like a wild-man and ate wild-man to be the forerunner to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?
- How could this stranger barbarian type guy be a joy and delight to his family?
- Some scholars say that he dressed like Elijah

- *2 Kings 1:8* They replied, "He was a man with a garment of hair and with a leather belt around his waist." The king said, "That was Elijah the Tishbite."
- However he looked,—people came out to the wilderness to listen to him.
- When you are called by God to do a task, the task is more important than the looks of the package.
- The Pharisees of Jesus' era was more concerned with the package.
- But God wants the passionate heart of a person more than the outside appearance.
- What was important for the forerunner of Jesus Christ was that he was to be a "joy and delight" to those around them.
- Let me ask an honest self-exploratory question.
- Are you a person who is a joy and delight to be around?
- How about to your own family?
- EX: I was talking to Sandra who works at Redbanks. She simply said some people of the residents are outright mean. I asked, I wonder if they were mean all their life? Then I realized, that many of us have a sweet nice external persona, and at home people are basically mean to those closest to them.
- Fathers, do you live your life to be a joy and delight to your own family?
- If we want to live like the uncivilized way of John the Baptist, your life needs to be a blessing to your now family and bring joy and delight to them.

2. Filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 15b)

15b He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.

- This text seems to emphasize that John the Baptist will be filled not with alcohol, but the Holy Spirit
- This was probably a specific instruction for Zechariah on how he and Elizabeth is to raise their son.
- Teach John to depend upon the Holy Spirit that is internal more than the external influences that can only temporarily numb the mind like alcohol.
- Did you know that in the Old Testament, alcohol could be found as early as Noah after the flood and he planted a vineyard to make wine.
- The Old and New Testaments do not forbid alcohol but frequently warns against the abuse of alcohol.
- This text uses a contrast between the dominating control of wine vs. the control of the Holy Spirit.
- John was to be a person filled with the Holy Spirit "even from birth."
- Throughout Scripture, people who were filled with the Holy Spirit were significantly used by God.
 - Stephen: But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. (Acts 7:55)
 - Barnabas: He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. (Acts 11:24)
 - Peter: Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! (Acts 4:8)
 - Paul: Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, (Acts 13:9)
 - Jesus: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10:38)
- The role of the Holy Spirit is essential in the life of the uncivilized because
 1. Raw untamed faith must listen to the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit
 2. Because faith that listens only to personal impulses cannot be much use to the Kingdom of God.
- Friends, once you taste the control of the Holy Spirit you will live your life as God created you to be filled with adventure and risk.
- Holy Spiritless lives are destined for spiritual domestication and passivity.

- Men, I ask, do you seek the Lord on a daily basis asking God to fill you with the Holy Spirit so that you can be used by Him in what ever way possible to advance God's redemptive plan?

3. Unbridled in His Purpose (v. 16)

16 Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.

- John the Baptist was to be the prophetic voice of God to bring many people back to the Lord.
- He was so driven by this task he constantly challenged the religious leaders for their behavior.
- *Matt. 3:7-8* But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
- I like this guy.
- John the Baptist was not living a passive, Holy Spiritless life of normalcy!!!
- Here we see John's faith as raw, passionate, untamed and uncivilized.
- The Pharisees and the Sadducees had created a religion that insulated them in a religious bubble where they risked nothing, sacrificed nothing, and lost nothing for their faith.
- Does that even sound like our own faith?
- John the Baptist was a barbarian in the midst of the civilized.
- God called him and used him in profound purposes.
- He had no patience for the domesticated religionists who were drowning in their own self-righteousness.
- John clearly knew his purpose as he served God, and would not let anything deter him from his mission.
- Do you know your purpose that God has for you?

4. Challenged the Mundane (v. 17)

17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

- John had one mission — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
- As he did this, he had to challenge the current thinking and practices that people had so that they would feel motivated to turn back to God.
- The phrase "turn **the** hearts of **the** fathers" is unusual.
- Some say, it means that when those who turn to the Lord, their Jewish ancestors (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) would be pleased with them.
- Hebrews 12:1 supports this idea that we are surrounded with a great cloud of witnesses.
- The thinking here is that if he turned the people back to God, it would have an affect on families as well.
- Fathers want to have an outstanding home life?
- Repent! Turn back to the Lord.
- Fight the mundane existence of living day to day and allow the Spirit of God to fill you, transform you, and influence your family.
- What a special privilege John had as the forerunner to the Son of God.
- Have you thought, why this guy?
- Would you expect Jesus to pick someone who was more refined, better looking, more polished and sophisticated in his manner?
- The journey of the uncivilized fights against the hollow shell of the civilized, and releases a raw passionate faith that desires to be obedient, and faithful of the PRIVILEGE of being a servant of God.

- We need to stop and ask ourselves, "If this is what the person looked like who prepared the way for Jesus, then what should a disciple of Jesus Christ look like who comes after Jesus look like?"
- Have we domesticated Christianity so much that we often do not hear the call of a deeper and more challenging faith that takes risk for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. Called to Remain Faithful (Matt. 11:1-6)

- Sometimes the consequences of the call of person who passionately pursues God puts a person in unfavorable circumstances.
- Because of the uncivilized nature of John, he ended up in prison.
- How did John end up in prison?
- *Luke 3:19 But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, 20 Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.*
- John publicly rebuked King Herod for his marital affairs.
- Herod had visited his brother in Rome and seduced his wife.
- Herod had then divorced his own wife and lured his sister-in-law to leave her husband and marry him.
- John calls out this behavior and ends up in prison.
- After John had been sitting in prison for probably a year, picking up in our Matthew text...
- *Matt 11:1-3 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"*
- This is an unusual question.
- He was asking if Jesus was "the coming one" which is the same expression John used to describe that someone greater than him is coming.
- Why would John doubt?
- I really believe John knew exactly who Jesus was by all the things he heard him do.
- I wonder if this was a disguised way of saying, "Get me out of here! I could do so much for you!"
- If that was his cry, How do you think Jesus should respond?
- Shouldn't Jesus drop everything and come to his aid? After all John was there for Jesus, why couldn't Jesus do the same for him?
- Doesn't Luke 4:18 say, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **freedom for the prisoners**"

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

- Jesus does not answer his question, and Jesus does not come to his rescue.
- It is almost as Jesus were saying, "I 'm not coming for you. I am not going to let you out of prison. I am not sparing your life!"
- John was destined for Herodias' platter.
- The uncivilized Christian is a barbaric path that is never promised to be safe because the disciples, themselves, were to pick up their cross and follow Jesus.
- We have valued our own lives so much that we have institutionalized our own safety so that our faith is never messy or unpredictable
- What does Jesus say?
- Jesus seems to be saying that John is remain FAITHFUL!!!!!!
- Civilized Christianity says Jesus died and rose from the dead so that you can live a life of endless comfort, security, and indulgence...domestication at its finest.

- But God's call to Uncivilized Christianity in the example of John the Baptist is a call to live as citizens of an entirely different kingdom where we let out the uncivil side of us and do things with boldness and passion we have never done before.

***Hymn** PH 333 "Seek Ye First"

1 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added
unto you
Allelu Alleluia

2 Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you
Allelu Alleluia

Offering

With tithes and offerings give thanks to the Lord; God's steadfast love endures forever.

***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 return to you, O God, the gifts you have given, that this money, and our lives, might bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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 sky and sea, your world brims with glory. You have set us in the midst of a garden and trusted its tending to us. We pray for resources of this earth and the wisdom to care for it well, that generations to come may enjoy its fruits and revel in its beauty. Saving God, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earthquake and the storm, your world is full of danger. Keep watch over your people and save them from despair; strengthen and uphold them when trouble comes. Saving God, **hear our prayer.**

God of power and might, the rulers of this world do not always seek your wisdom. Guide all nations in the ways of peace and uphold the oppressed, even as we work and wait for your coming realm. Saving God, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing and comfort, pain and loss are all around. Soothe the frantic, embolden the fearful, ease the suffering of the sick. Give peace to all who grieve and hope to those facing death. Saving God, **hear our prayer.**

All-knowing, all-loving God, we cannot always voice our hidden cares. Hear our silent prayers, even those without words. [A time of silence is kept.] Saving God, **hear our prayer.**

With trust in your sustaining Spirit, thanksgiving for your Son's interceding, and confidence in your coming realm of justice, peace, and love, we offer these prayers in the name of 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 293 "This is My Father's World"

1 This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world.
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

***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)