

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

July 4, 2021

Chiming the Hour Kristin Jones, Director of Music

Welcome and Announcements

- July 5 office closed
- Also, we are saddened and disappointed to share with you that Erin McKee has informed us that she will not be serving at our church as the Director of Youth as was previously planned. She has made this decision because of personal and health reasons.
 - But the Youth remain to be very important and valuable to our church and we trust in God's plan and provision for them. Please pray for our children and youth....., serve them in whatever way you can to care for them.... Seek the Lord to provide a leader.....and pray to the Lord for His guidance and direction as we continue to minister to these that the Lord loves so dearly.
 - Mark Hardy planning a game night with the Otters

Organ Prelude

*Call to Worship

Jesus Christ, the crucified Lord,
calls us to believe the good news of salvation.
His grace is sufficient for us.
Let us enter into God's new realm rejoicing,
not in our own strength,
but in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Let us worship God.

*Hymn PH 561 "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

1 My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring!

2 My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

3 Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees,
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

4 Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

*Call to Confession

Threats to life pierce us and cause us to doubt God's love. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Let us confess our sins and receive new life.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy Three, Holy One, triune God, we confess that we do not believe that you have overcome sin and death. We are more in touch with the pangs of our weakness than we are with the power of your love. In fear, we worship idols; in despair, we collapse in hopelessness; in rage, we seek to dominate others. O God of David, forgive us. O Son of David, have mercy on us. O Spirit of the Living God, grant us peace. Send us out with the good news: nothing can withstand the victory of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear and believe this good news: Jesus, the Christ, son of Mary, Son of the Most High God, was broken and poured out for our salvation. In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Amen.

***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

Savior God, you gave Zion as stronghold for David. By the power of the Holy Spirit, speak to us through Jesus Christ, your living Word, in whose name we pray. Amen.

First Reading Psalm 48

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defense.

Then the kings assembled, they came on together. As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic, they took to flight; trembling took hold of them there, pains as of a woman in labor, as when an east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God establishes forever. Selah.

We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with victory. Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments.

Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers, consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will be our guide forever.

Second Reading Mark 14:32-52

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to

be distressed and agitated. And said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

SERMON "Facing the Inevitable"

Mark 14:32-52

July 4, 2021

- Benjamin Franklin, in a letter to Jean-Baptiste Le Roy, **1789** — *Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.*
- However, Franklin's letter is not the origin of the phrase, which appeared earlier in Daniel Defoe's *The Political History of the Devil*, **1726** — *Things as certain as death and taxes, can be more firmly believ'd.*
- And in *The Cobbler of Preston* by Christopher Bullock (**1716**)— *'Tis impossible to be sure of any thing but Death and Taxes*
- Ben Franklin may have made the phrase, but it existed 73 years earlier.
- All of the writers was right about death and taxes, it is inevitable, but they all got it wrong.
- They had death and taxes in the wrong order because taxes almost always come before death. Right?
- As Jesus fulfills the inevitable according to God's divine plan, he provides for us a model on how to live in light of the inevitable.

1. Determination to do God's Will

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. 34 And said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." 35 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

- Jesus and his disciples go to a place called Gethsemane.
- In Hebrew the word means "oil press"
- As Jesus enters into a place where he shows his true humanity before the Lord, he becomes "hard pressed" between desires his own and being obedient to God's will on the other.
- Jesus takes three of his inner circle of disciples, the ones that were on the Mount of Transfiguration where they have seen Jesus in his glory, and now they will see him in his true humanity during the worst of times.
- Notice the words describing Jesus, "distressed and agitated" - these words describe the intense emotional, psychological, and spiritual suffering that Jesus was experiencing.
- Jesus knew he was going to the cross.
- He would not only suffer great physical agony but he would bear all of the sins of the world—past, present, and future.
- Jesus says, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."
- When Jesus says to "keep awake," most versions translate Jesus petition to his disciples as "keep watch"
- I find it interesting that some commentators suggest that Jesus asked the inner three to "keep watch" knowing that his captors were coming.
- But I believe, Jesus was teaching and preparing his disciples how to face the coming persecution in their lives.
- Larry Hurtado writes: "Mark's readers, who have been warned through Jesus' words to the Twelve that they too may have to face trial and even execution for his sake, were surely supposed to see Jesus' prayer as a powerful example to them of the submission to the will of God they were to emulate in their time of testing."
- Jesus trying to is teach his inner disciples how to stand firm in the trials of faith.
- What did Jesus teach them?
- In his prayer, Jesus was completely honest about how he humanly feels, but at the end he says, "yet, not what I want, but what YOU want."
- In the most emotionally difficult time of his life, Jesus yields his will to correspond to God's will.
- Q: Do you yield yourself in complete determination to do God's will in the midst of the challenges that are inevitable in our lives?
- We must follow Jesus' example to us to fully submit to God's will rather than our own.

Facing the inevitable involves:

1. Determination to do God's Will

2. Self Discipline

37 He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? 38 Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. 40 And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. 41 He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

- In this section, the emphasis now shifts from Jesus' prayer to the three disciples who failed to stay awake as Jesus requested.
- In fact, what Jesus strongly requested was for the three to do two things: "keep awake" and "pray."
- The rationale was so that they would not "come into the time of trial."
- Other translations use "keep watch and pray that you do not fall into temptation"
- Now, you may ask what temptation could these three disciples experience at midnight in an olive garden?
- It could be the temptation to sleep, but how is sleep a temptation?
- Jesus said, "the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- In this case, it was the temptation to sleep.
- Temptation is the battle between the flesh and the spirit.
- What is interesting here, even at the very last moments of his earthly life, Jesus was using this opportunity to teach the three disciples as well as us today, the reality of temptation and how to overcome it....especially during difficult, emotionally stress filled times.
- Barker and Kohlenberger commentary says, "The **conquest** of temptation can only come through these two actions. [prayer and vigilance] The human spirit might be willing to do what is right, but the human body is weak (here its weakness refers to the inability of the disciples to stay awake).
- So when we face temptation or prepare to fight against temptation, **we must live our lives filled with prayer and vigilance.**
- In order to master both, we must have self-discipline.
- This is what the disciples lacked.
- In fact after three times, Jesus says, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough!"
- "Enough" can have the meaning "the bill is paid" as though everything in the garden of Gethsemane everything was finally established because Jesus' betrayers had come at that very moment.
- Because of a lack of self-discipline, the disciples failed Jesus.
- Q: I wonder how many times do we fall into temptation because a lack of prayer and vigilance.

Facing the inevitable involves:

1. Determination to do God's Will
2. Self Discipline

3. Dedicated Obedience

43 Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. 44 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45 So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. 47 But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 48 Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? 49 Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

- Judas comes onto the scene because of his preparations to betray Jesus.
- Notice the texts emphasizes the fact that Judas was "one of the twelve" ...just in case that the reader forgot who Judas was.
- I think Mark inserts this phrase to heighten the unbelievable incident of what will happen next.
- Judas arrives with a small band of the Sanhedrin, who were armed with clubs and swords prepared for resistance from the Jesus or his disciples.
- Now remember, it is about 1:00am in the morning and was still dark.
- So the identifier of the person to be arrested was a kiss.
- A kiss was either a common symbol of friendship and affection.
- Some scholars say it was a common greeting from a student and their rabbi.
- Regardless, the Mark brings out the contrast between a kiss being sign of affection and a sign of betrayal at the same time.
- This was similar to the contrast between the clubs and swords used for Jesus arrest and the innocence of Jesus like a lamb led to slaughter.
- Also in this paragraph is the attempt of violence by cutting off the ear of a servant and how it could have escalated to something greater.
- In other gospel accounts, we find that the person is Mark who used the sword where he struck the servant's ear.
- Jesus stops the aggression, and mentions how he is being treated like a violent criminal.
- Then Jesus concludes this section by saying, "But let the Scriptures be fulfilled."
- Mark is emphasizing how Jesus wanted to do and fulfill His Father's will even to the last moments of his own freedom.
- This is the example of Jesus's dedicated obedience to God's inevitable plan.
- Q: How often are willing to walk in obedience to God's inevitable plan when things do not seem to be going our way?

Facing the inevitable involves:

1. Determination to do God's Will
2. Self Discipline
3. Dedicated Obedience

4. Honest Fear

50 All of them deserted him and fled. 51 A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, 52 but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

- These last few sentences which is only mentioned by Mark have baffled commentators as to why Mark inserts them into his gospel.
- All the disciples flee, just like the Scriptures predicted.

- A young man who was wearing only a linen cloth was caught in the hands of the leaders, but left his garment and fled into the night naked.
- Some interpret this account to be taken symbolically: that the young man here and the young man later in the tomb that the women see are the same person.
 - His nakedness in flight symbolizes dying with Christ, and the young man in the tomb wearing a white bright garment indicates rising in Christ.
- Other interpretations is that it is an eyewitness account that actually happened in explicit detail.
- Some draw a connection between the linen garment the young man was wearing and the linen cloth that Joseph used to wrap Jesus' body after his death.
- Linen garments were not very common and expensive.
- But the most common interpretation is that John Mark is the writer of this gospel, he inserted it to show his readers that he really was present in the final hours of Jesus' life.
- Regardless of the interpretation, we find Jesus completely alone and has been deserted by everyone who said that they were on his side.
- The this little incident of the young man is really about running in fear.
- The last principle on how to live in light of the inevitable is the most obvious, "Honest Fear" is something not to be ignored.
- Fear helps us cling to Jesus when everything seems to be out of control.

Facing the inevitable involves:

1. Determination to do God's Will
2. Self Discipline
3. Dedicated Obedience
4. Honest Fear

***Hymn** PH 562 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bade the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who did brood
Upon the chaos wild and rude,
And bade its angry tumult cease,
And gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word
The wind and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm amid its rage did sleep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and power,
All travelers guard in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

Offering

The Lord said to the apostle Paul, My grace is sufficient for you. . . .Jesus also said to Peter, "Every one to whom much is given, of him much will be required." Let us bear witness to the love of God by presenting our offerings of thanksgiving.

***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**

Gracious triune God, we thank you for the suffering love of Jesus Christ, and for your presence with us in times of joy and of sorrow, sickness and health, faithfulness and brokenness. We bring these offerings as signs of our gratitude and as tools in the ministry of the church. Use them and us to make known the good news of your healing love and renewing power, in the name of 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

Almighty God, who transforms our weakness into strength, receive the prayers we lovingly offer on behalf of the church and the world.

Our world is an anxious place divided by ideologies, and we grow more stubborn and ill-mannered each day. Break down the barriers that exist among peoples and nations; restore and strengthen our common life.

Strengthen those who govern our lands. Give them inspiration, courage, joy, and peace to meet the needs of their communities. Help them to see your will in the decisions they make every day.

Give to your church a bold vision and a daring love to speak and act on behalf of your redemptive mission to bring all people into the knowledge of your Son Jesus Christ.

Comfort all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Expand our compassion, increase our faith, and make us whole as we work together for the healing of those in need.

Grant us purity of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing and doing Your will. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we fulfill your plans for this earth.

God of mercy, have mercy on us.
God of wisdom, illumine our minds.
God of light, shine into our heart.
Eternal Goodness, delivers from evil.

God of power, be our refuge and our strength.

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 564 "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

1 O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with *brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

2 O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

3 O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine.

4 O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with *brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

***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)