

**Presbyterian Church of Henderson**  
Worship Service 10:00 AM  
February 6, 2022  
*Seven Marks of Vital Congregations Series*

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**      Pastor Eric Hoey

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

**\*Call to Worship**

In the sanctuary, God, the Holy One, whose glory fills the whole earth, calls us.

**Beside the sea, along ordinary paths, in our daily work, God calls us.**

We respond with our whole heart, singing God's praise and giving thanks.

**In steadfast love, God fulfills the divine purposes for our lives.**

**\*Hymn**      PH 150 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

1 Come, Christians, join to sing

Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King;

Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice,

Before His throne rejoice;

Praise is His gracious choice;

Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high;

Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky;

Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend;

To us He'll condescend;

His love shall never end;

Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again;

Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain;

Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore

His goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore,

"Alleluia! Amen!"

**\*Call to Confession**

Let us turn to the most holy One and confess our sin, confident in God's faithful and steadfast love for us.

**\*Prayer of Confession**      (unison)

**O God, though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve and deliver us. Though our lips are not clean and our hearts are not pure, you call us. Forgive us, we pray, when we wander away from you, lost and at risk. Forgive us when our lives do not reflect your glory and the purposes you intend. Help us to comprehend your ways in the world. We long to feel your grace and glory, for in you, Emmanuel, we can be healed and set free; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

The promise is this: God is faithful and steadfast, eager to forgive our sin and welcome us home. Grateful for this promise of joy and of peace, let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

**\*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.

*Please turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— "The peace of Christ be with you"*

**Prayer for Illumination**

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are grateful for the gift of Scripture. By the power of the Holy Spirit, enliven your Word, that we might know the good news and share it with others. For the sake of Christ we ask it. Amen.

**First Reading**      Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

**Special Music**      Anne Nash, soloist

## **Second Reading**      Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

## **SERMON**      "Outward Incarnational Focus"

Selected Scriptures

February 6, 2022

- We have been going through a series called the Seven Marks of Vital Congregations.
- [7 Marks slide]
- Today's Mark of Vital Congregations is Outward Incarnation Focus vs. inward institutional survival; closed communities of assimilation and exclusion.
- Outward Incarnational Focus is about being the gathered community of Christ sent out!
- We go not because we have a strategy for new membership.
- We go because we have a Savior who commanded us to be on God's mission.
- We go because God's saving love in Christ, cannot be inwardly contained in our buildings when we live with neighbors in need and a hurting world.
- The Good News is meant to transform and transcend.
- Outward incarnational focus means we daily take up our cross and follow to the marginalized of society, the poor among us, the suffering and sick, the stranger and enemy, the down-trodden and "the least of these."
- We do not just focus on bringing similar or like-minded people inside to assimilate to our way of doing things; nor do we just go to people and places that are familiar and comfortable.
- Outward incarnational focus, requires an emboldened faith, that goes because Christ is already present, and calls us to join.
- This morning I want you to imagine that you are at the entrance of the Pearly Gates, and in the reception area before you enter the Pearly Gates, there is a coffee table with a beautiful photo album.

- As you are waiting at the Pearly Gates, you pick up the photo album to learn that it is about God's Redemptive Plan in pictures.
- This should be interesting? Right?
- On the first page of the album is the word in big letters, "SENT."
- God's redemptive plan is predicated upon those people God has SENT throughout Biblical history.
- Throughout the Bible, there are hundreds of examples of God sending people to announce and complete His redemptive mission.
- Allow me to show you some of the pages of this album.

### 1. God Sends Abram

*Gen 12:1-2 the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."*

- Beginning in the first book of the Bible, God calls and sends Abram to leave his people, and his country to go somewhere else where God will show him.
- This is the beginning of God creating a people to be different from the culture around them.
- God calls one man to remove himself from the pagan culture and to basically create a new people with the promise of all of God's blessings.
- Abram's obedience to God would bring great blessing to himself and his descendants and God assures that He will curse those who curse Abram.
- Abram becomes Abraham and acknowledged as the father of the Jewish nation.

### 2. God Sends Moses

*Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has **sent** me to you.'"*

- 450 years later, the Israelites are under Egyptian slavery.
- God hears the cries of His people and does something about it.
- God calls and sends Moses to be his spokesperson and principle leader to take God's people out of Egypt through what is called the Exodus.
- Through his leadership, Moses becomes known to be Israel's redeemer from the slavery and oppression of the Egyptians.

### 3. God sends Isaiah

*Isaiah 6:5-9 And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"*

*Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I **send**, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And he said, "Go and say to this people:*

- About 750 years later, God uses prophets to break into the turmoil of this world by choosing people to communicate God's message to either to the people of Israel or the world at large.

- Here in this text which we read earlier today, Isaiah has this heavenly vision, recognizes his sinful inadequacy, and is dramatically touched or forgiven by God.
- Then, God asks a leading question, “Whom shall I send?”
- The fact that God wants to use Isaiah, has cleansed him from his “unclean lips,” and asks for someone to be sent, demonstrates how God needs to use **sent** people to accomplish his mission and redemptive task.
- Later in Isaiah he writes:
- *Isaiah 61:1-2* *The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has **sent** me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD’S favor*
- These are the words, prophesied from the lips of Isaiah that Jesus uses to describe himself as a person sent by God.
- Last week’s reading, God sends the prophet Jeremiah to accurately be his spokesperson as a young boy.

#### 4. God Sends Jeremiah

*Jeremiah 1:6-9* *Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I **send** you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, “Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.” Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth;*

- When God calls and sends Jeremiah, he does not use people with certain qualifications, but people who can walk in obedience to the Lord trusting that God will provide everything needed to accomplish God’s task.
- God needed Jeremiah who was a young boy and sends him out.
- I like the part, “you shall speak whatever I command you.”
- This tells me Jeremiah had to walk with God in such a way that he always had to hear what God wanted him to say.

#### 5. God Sends Malachi

- Malachi was the last of the prophets in the Old Testament, *Malachi 3:1* *See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.*
- Who was this person that the prophet Malachi was referring?
- In three of the New Testament gospels, all of them refer to the messenger to be John the Baptist.
- In Malachi’s message, he says that the Lord would come to judge His people but there would be One who would come before to purify them.
- This is a prophesy of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

#### 6. God Sends John the Baptist

*John 1:5-7* *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. **There was a man sent from God**, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.*

- When you come to the New Testament, the idea that God sends picks up steam when you hear that John the Baptist was sent from God.
- John the Baptist was sent by God to be the forerunner of Jesus Christ.
- His role was to announce or testify to the light of Jesus.
- He also prepared the Jews for the coming of Jesus by preaching a repentance from sin and be baptized so that they could prepare their hearts for Jesus.
- John the Baptist was sent by God to point others to Jesus

## 7. God Sends His Son

- All throughout the gospels we find Jesus' self-understanding of being the one sent by God
- In Matthew, Jesus speaks to the Canaanite woman telling her that he "was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel" (*Matt. 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*)
- In Mark Jesus tells his disciples that anyone who welcomes a little child does not only welcome Jesus himself, but "the one who sent me" (*Mark 9:37 "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."*)
- In Luke Jesus shares that he must preach the good news of the kingdom "because that is why I was sent" (*Luke 4:43 But he said to them, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose."*)

## 8. Jesus Sends His Disciples

*Luke 9:1-2 Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he **sent** them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.*

- If Jesus was sent by God, the the sending of the twelve is an integral part of Jesus' own mission.

*Luke 10:1-2 After this the Lord appointed seventy others and **sent** them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to **send** out laborers into his harvest.*

- Here is another critical text that demonstrates that Jesus was not only the sent one, but also as the sending one.
- Here Jesus ends out the 72 as an advanced team to prepare the towns and villages he was about to enter.
- Another significant aspect of this text is not only the 72 sent out, but he teaches them to pray the "Lord of the harvest" to send workers to assist them in their labor.
- Finally at the end of Jesus ministry, after his death and in his resurrection appearances—

*John 20:21-22 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

- Jesus in his resurrection appearance sends the church and breathes upon us the holy Spirit to accomplish the task.

- The church has no choice but to join what God is doing in salvation history, and understand that what they do must coincide with God's plan.
- When a church becomes inward focused, all the concerns, complaints, and energy is focused upon the things about the functioning of the church rather than focusing on the how the church can fulfill Jesus' commission of being sent.
- Outward incarnation focus is simply being the hands, feet, and words of Jesus into the areas where God sends us.
- Our God has been a sending God from the very beginning of salvation history.
- The question is—"what are you doing to do about that?" How has God sent you into your world?

## CLOSE

- The natural reaction after seeing God's album of redemptive history would be, I wish I would have know this sooner!
- Because God's saving love in Christ, cannot be inwardly contained in our buildings when we live with neighbors in need and a hurting world.

## \*Hymn PH 329 "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

1 Break Thou the bread of life,  
 Dear Lord, to me,  
 As Thou didst break the loaves  
 Beside the sea;  
 Beyond the sacred page  
 I seek Thee, Lord;  
 My spirit pants for Thee,  
 O living Word!

2 Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord,  
 Now unto me,  
 As Thou didst bless the bread  
 By Galilee;  
 Then shall all bondage cease,  
 All fetters fall;  
 And I shall find my peace,  
 My all in all!

## Offering

Through Jesus Christ we have come to know the abundance of God. Let us then give generously, as has been given to us.

### \*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 One, we give you thanks for your generosity to us. Bless these gifts and multiply them, for the sake of those in need around us; in Jesus' name. 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**

- Jeanette Oldham's return to KY today
- Reid and Sarah's new baby: Maxwell Reid Thomas
- CJ's son, Danny, with another open heart surgery

O God most high, you meet us where we live and invite us to be part of your purpose. All thanks and praise to you, for you hear our prayers for the church, the world, and all who live in it. **On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.**

We pray for the church and for all who work to bring others a word of compassion. **On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.**

We pray for peace among nations and peace among people. **On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.**

We pray for those suffering from war or calamities of nature. **On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.**

We pray for those who are oppressed and need courage to resist. **On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.**

We pray for those who because of illness or hardship are paralyzed by fear. **On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.**

God of majesty and glory, through Jesus Christ you summon us into your compassion for all creation. Renew in us your call and release us from all fear, that we may testify in words and deeds to your steadfast love for all. For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray, 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)