

## Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

May 8, 2022 - Mother's Day

### Ringing of the Bell

#### Welcome and Announcements

- HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY [Play mother's day video.]
- The church has a special gift for all the women in our church who are mother's or who nurture children in their own special way. We love you!
- FOR MOTHER'S DAY ...You are welcome to pick up FAITH-FILLED HOLIDAY ACTIVITY SHEETS in the back of the sanctuary after service. We particularly suggest the Fathers picking them up with instructions to lead with their children. There are 2 of them for Mother's Day... one titled "Mom Knows Best!" and another titled "The Mom Awards."
- BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG Marsha's Place is having their Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser from Mother's Day, May 8th until Father's Day, June 19th. Pick up a bottle and fill it up with your change, cash, or even checks and bring it back on Father's Day.
- YOUNG WOMEN'S BRUNCH We want to invite all the YOUNG WOMEN to a BRUNCH on Saturday, May 14th from 10am-12noon at the Hoey House. Please call/text Cynthia 502-599-1041 or the church office 270-826-3981 if you can join us! Come enjoy some time with the ladies...eating, getting hand massages, sharing, and just being together. Hope you can make it!
- PRESBYTERY MEETING Everyone is invited to the Presbytery Meeting that we will be hosting at our church on Tuesday, May 10th at 10:00 am (registration at 9:30). The morning includes a Worship Service, Education and Business Meeting and Lunch (prepared by our Presbyterian Women group). If you would like to volunteer to help greet (9:00 am to 10:00 am) or serve (11:30 am to 1:30 pm) please contact the church office.
- CHOIR PRACTICE The Handbell Choir will meet Wednesday, May 11th at 6:15 pm and the Chancel Choir will meet at 7:15 pm.
- ZOOM STUDY Join us for our study on *The Bible Jesus Read* on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. Meeting ID: 984 3627 7403, Passcode: 500727
- CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS Children and Parents remember that you can pick up children's worship bags at the front of the sanctuary with activity sheets and treats!
- Christian Community Outreach The requested need for May is shave cream and razors.

**Minute for Mission**      Cindy Thweatt

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

**\*Call to Worship**          Donna Freitag

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Blessing and honor is yours, O God.

**Glory to God forever. Alleluia!**

## **Pray of the Day**

Almighty God, to whom all honor belongs, you have gathered a people from every tribe and language to praise your name eternally. Join our song with all of heaven as we worship you this day in the glorious light of Christ. Amen.

## **\*Hymn** PH 229 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

1 From all that dwell below the skies  
Let the Creator's praise arise:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
Through every land, by every tongue.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 In every land begin the song,  
To every land the strains belong:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
In cheerful sounds all voices raise  
And fill the world with joyful praise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
Eternal truth attends Thy Word:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
Till suns rise and set no more.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **\*Call to Confession**

God is present to guide our journey and eager to forgive us when we go astray; therefore, in humility and faith, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

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

**Holy God, we confess that we have strayed from your paths of right relationship and peace, and we have dishonored you, ourselves, and your creation; we repent of these hurtful ways. Forgive us, we pray, as we learn to forgive others, and guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

## **\*Assurance of Pardon**

God's mercy overflows as a healing spring to cleanse us of our offenses; therefore, know that you are forgiven and receive new life in Christ.

## **\*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**

Shepherd of Souls, you call us to an abundant feast at the table of your word; open our hearts to feed on your goodness, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we might dwell evermore deeply in you. Amen.

## **First Reading** Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

## **Anthem** "You Are My All in All" by Dennis Jernigan

## **Second Reading** Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

- Good morning kids. Since this is Mother's Day I want to ask you a question about mothers: "Do you think there is anybody in this room who does not have a mother?" "Do you think there ever lived a person who did not have a mother?"
- Well, it may surprise you (or maybe not) that there lived according to the Bible two persons who did not have a mother. Can you guess who they were?
- That's right, Adam and Eve. They did not have a mother or a father.
- They were the first people ever and God made them.
- Now, try to put yourself in Adam's or Eve's shoes. What would life be like if you didn't have a mother?
- How would it be different? (if children don't share right away, say something like:) there wouldn't be anybody to be after you to clean up your room, brush your teeth, nobody to stop you from watching too much TV . . . ? Would you like that?
- But think about what else would be different. How about the times when you're sick. Who takes care of you? Who washes your clothes? Who prepares your food? Who tucks you in and kisses you at night? You really don't want to miss that, right?
- The truth is that moms are some of the greatest people on earth, because they take such good care of us, and they love us so much.
- So, today we really should do something special for our mom's. They deserve it. Let's tell them that we love them and appreciate them, and let's spoil them a little today.
- Let's pray a prayer of thanks for our moms together . . .

## **SERMON**      "God Advances His Mission"

Acts 9:36-43

- This is not a Mother's Day sermon this year.
- I get so caught up in the post-Easter texts in Acts, and how the gospel is spread that I forget about the special occasions on our calendar.
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- At a previous church at the end of a Sunday, Cynthia would turn to me and say, "We should go."
- I would gather up our things, call the children to me to tell them we were leaving, and walk out the building to the parking lot.
- We would load up the car, buckle all the kids into their seats, sit in the driver's seat, and one of the kids would say, "Where's Mom?"
- "Stay here!" I would unbuckle, go back into the church with a singular focus and mission, to get Cynthia so that we could go home.
- On the way in, it does not matter who I ran into, I would keep my head down, maybe look up to nod or wave, but focus on the mission...to get Cynthia.
- I would work my way back to the same spot where we were, and there she is.....in the same spot where we left her, talking to someone.
- Every time that happens, I would be reminded of a valuable lesson.
- My wife is more Christlike than I am.

- Jesus would be more concerned with the relationships in the room rather than solely focusing on my own preconceived selfish plans.
- Not to mention how many people I snubbed going back into the church looking for my wife!!!!
- Can you imagine Jesus saying, "Get out of my way, I have to go to the cross and die for humanity!"
- The key to advancing the Kingdom of God is through people as we will see in this section of text.
- God uses a variety of people with different gifts and abilities to advance God's kingdom as we will see in this account in Acts.

## **God Advances His Mission Through:**

### **1. People of Charity**

*36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.*

- This account occurs in Joppa or the modern city of Jaffa where it was the nearest seaport to Jerusalem.
- In this city there was a follower of Christ named Dorcas (which is an Aramaic name) and in Greek, Tabitha.
- Luke describes her as a disciple who was **devoted to doing good works always helping the poor.**
- Think about it, in the overall narrative of Acts, Luke singles out this woman to highlight her faith as a **needed essential** for the advance of God mission.
- EX: I was watching an episode of Madam Secretary, where there was the threat of a government shut down, and the senior staff had to make the decisions on who were the **essential staff** to maintain their department.
- ISW Dorcas was an essential part of the Joppa community
- Why?
- Friends, the ability to love, care, advocate for others is exactly what Jesus would do in his ministry.
- Now that Jesus could no longer be present among them, God raises up people for the special ability to love, care and provide for others.
- Jesus said in Luke 6:35 *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High*
- In fact, the act of kindness points people to the Lord.
- John 13:34-35 *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this **everyone will know** that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*
- When we show kindness through love, we show that we are disciples of Christ
- God's kindness is manifested in people like Dorcas.
- The ministry of kindness has important ramifications for God redemptive plan.
- Max Lucado says, "For years I thought my assignment or the Church's assignment was to articulate the Gospel and nothing more. Now I believe that if we don't support the verbal expression of the Gospel with physical demonstration of compassion, we are not imitating Jesus."

God Advances His Mission Through:

### **2. People of Faith**

37 *At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.*

- Dorcas became ill and died.
- One of the Lord's faithful representative of kindness is now absent from this community.
- Notice how the community treated the body.
- The text says they washed her and laid her upstairs.
- Rather than anointing her body for burial, the believers simply washed it and placed it in a room.
- Normally, no corpse would lay overnight between death and burial.
- It was standard practice in this area to anoint the body with oils to prepare it for death, wrap the body, and to seek out a burial place as soon as possible.
- These people of faith had other plans.

38 *Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."*

- In the verses prior to our text, Peter is in Lydda (which was only a short journey to Joppa) to strengthen the churches, and he comes across Aeneas who had been bed ridden for 8 years.
- Peter miraculously heals the man, and the reputation of Peter's ability to heal began to spread.
- So these faithful people in Joppa, did not anoint the body for burial because they were hoping that God would bring Dorcas back to life.
- Can you imagine, Dorcas was so valuable to the community, this group of faithful people believed that Dorcas could be restored back to life.
- So they sent two men to retrieve Peter in the nearby town of Lydda.
- He had proven experience with a miraculous healing in the neighboring town, now the pressure to restore a person to life was placed upon him.
- What is amazing here, everyone operated with faith believing God would do a miracle.
- Listen to *Matthew 8:7-10* *When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.*
- Can you imagine what God can do in our community if we had the same faith that God could do anything?

God Advances His Mission Through:

### **3. People of God**

39 *So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.*

- Because of the request and their faith of the two men from Joppa, Peter has the courage to go to the neighboring city to tend to their needs.

- He was brought to a room upstairs where the body of Dorcas was laid and widows of the town were mourning the loss of Dorcas.
- According to Jewish tradition, widows were frequently seen weeping when someone had died.
- Often the poorer class of society were identified with special garments that they wore.
- In this situation they were showing Peter the garments Dorcas had made for them to pay tribute to the memory of her.
- The widows in Joppa had depended upon Dorcas, and her death was a deep loss for the community in her charity to the poor.
- Seeing the loss of Dorcas, Peter was moved to respond to their situation.
- What is interesting, no one asked for a miracle.
- Now, if you were Peter, how would you respond?
- EX: "Who me? I-I-I-I have never done that before!?!?"

*40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.*

- Peter only had what Jesus taught the disciples or by his own example.
- Jesus at one time given his disciples authority to raise people from the dead.
- *Matthew 10:8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.*
- We are not sure how much raising of the dead experience Peter had, but what we see here, Peter imitating how Jesus responded to Jarius' daughter when he put all the mourners out of the room.
- Peter does the same by putting everyone out of the room.
- Unlike Jesus' healing of Jarius' daughter, Peter kneels down to pray.
- Realizing that he was doing this not on his own initiative, Peter had to ask for God's guidance.
- So in humble adoration and dependence upon God knowing the importance of Dorcas to the community, Peter turns to the body and says in Aramaic, "Tabitha, get up!"
- Notice he does not touch her like Jesus did when he grabbed the hand of Jarius' daughter.
- Peter was probably still culturally afraid of becoming contaminated by touching a dead person.
- She opens her eyes and sat up demonstrating that she had been restored to life.
- Can you image what would have happened to Dorcas if Peter was refused to visit?
- But Luke includes this story of her miraculous healing to demonstrate how a person of God like Peter was used to accomplish His redemptive plan.

God Advances His Mission Through:

#### **4. People of Testimony**

*41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.*

- Peter helped her up and brought her out of the room to invite others to see Dorcas alive.
- Can you imagine the elation of those present?

- They had secretly hoped God would provide someone to bring Dorcas back to life, and God proved to be faithful.
  - Q: Why didn't God simply bring healing to Dorcas when she was ill?
  - John Calvin observes that God could have kept Dorcas alive to care for the widows.
  - He goes on to say: by raising her up from the dead, God was able to be show to the world and especially the poor widows of Joppa—Jesus is the author of life.
- 42 *This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.*
- Keeping Dorcas alive could not have produced the results of this particular text.
  - In raising Dorcas from the dead, the power of Jesus Christ became known throughout the whole city.
  - The impact of this miracle bore the fruit so that the entire city "believed in the Lord."
  - Notice that it was not about Peter receiving the recognition for Dorcas new lease on life, but it was the Lord who received praise when the people of Joppa put their faith in Jesus Christ.
  - The key here is that the only way the whole town became believers was through the testimony of the people who had faith in Jesus Christ.
- Do you realize the power of the testimony of how God is working in your life is one of the most powerful evangelistic tools we can offer to the world?
  - Paul writes:
  - *1 Thessalonians 1:6-9 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God*
  - In Paul's words, the testimony of the love for each other and the faithfulness to the Lord made their faith spread into places never thought possible.

God Advances His Mission Through:

### **5. People of Hospitality**

43 *Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.*

- Peter stays in the harbor city and took up residence with a tanner named Simon who lived next to the seashore.
- This mention of Peter's lodging is significant because a tanner was a despised trade in Judaism.
- Since tanners worked with the hides of animals, Jews had concerns about ritual purity because of their contact with dead bodies.
- Tanners were suspect of living immoral lives because women worked in their trade.
- Also Jews were repulsed by their trade because of the stench from animal carcasses.
- One Rabbi commented, "Woe to him who is a tanner."
- The fact that Peter is mentioned three times staying with a tanner in Acts 10:6, 32, and here in 43

- Acts 9:43
  - Acts 10:6 he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.”
  - Acts 10:32 Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’
  - This is a significant detail for Luke to communicate who Peter is experiencing hospitality because it shows how this new fledging community of faith (that is living in peace until Paul’s persecution) wrestled with issues of culture and tradition and their new found faith and love in Christ.
  - So the outcast, this tanner, who graciously offers hospitality to a traveling itinerant preacher, is absolutely needed for advancing God’s mission.
  - EX: The hospitality of a Benedictine monastery.
  - CLOSE: In a couple of days, we will be hosting the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. In the past we have asked people in the congregation for their help in greeting, preparing, serving, and being gracious hosts to the members of presbytery.
  - In the past when the presbytery was larger, we needed all hands on deck to accomplish the task.
  - ISW: When God advances His mission, God needs all hands on deck because—
- God Advances His Mission Through:
1. People of Charity
  2. People of Faith
  3. People of God
  4. People of Testimony
  5. People of Hospitality

**\*Hymn** PH 326 “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
 Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
 Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
 And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

2 Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;  
 All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength and mind?  
 I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
 O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

3 Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;  
 Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
 To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
 Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

4 Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,  
 One holy passion filling all my frame;  
 The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,  
 My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

**Offering**

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want." Trusting in divine care, let us present our tithes and offerings to God who restores our lives eternally.

**\*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, Divine Shepherd, you anoint us with the oil of gladness; your love overflows our hearts. Accept our offering for the good of the world as we joyfully give thanks for our life in you. In Jesus' 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**

- Bobbie Cantley was in the hospital earlier this week. Pray for her recovery
- Susie Chisholm as she continues to live and be cared for at Primrose
- Helen Posey/Leslie Rideout in the event loss of Helen's mother in law, Pearl.
- Kolson Clum who is in the neonatal hospital as he continues to grow
- Mother's

In this season of Easter rejoicing, let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings saying, O Risen Christ, **Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.**

For the goodness of the earth, that it may flourish with flowing waters, verdant pastures, and paths that lead us to protect and care for your creation. O Risen Christ, **Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.**

For the peace and welfare of the world, that all our tables of work and worship promote the understanding and dignity that transform enemies into friends. O Risen Christ, **Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.**

For all who suffer with sickness, need, or danger, that all our afflictions and fears are met with healing and the comforting presence of your voice. O Risen Christ, Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the blessings we receive and share, that we may live a life of ceaseless praise for the salvation that is ours through you. O Risen Christ, **Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.**

For the saints in light, that you will wipe every tear from their eyes as they dwell with you eternally. O Risen Christ, **Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.**

Holy God, you are our hope and our strength, our light and our sovereign, our shepherd and our savior. With all the saints in heaven and on earth, we praise your holy name and entrust every care to you; through 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.

**\*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)

