

**Presbyterian Church of Henderson**  
Worship Service 10:00 AM  
June 19, 2022 - Father's Day  
*Living as God's People - Epistle of James*

## **Ringling of the Bell**

### **Welcome and Announcements**     Pastor Eric

- **INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION BBQ** Join us for an Independence Day Celebration BBQ on Sunday, July 3rd in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. The church will provide burgers and hotdogs, please bring a side dish. Afterwards we will walk to the waterfront to watch the fireworks show. (Bring a chair or blanket)
- **CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** Once again the Presbyterian Church of Henderson is offering scholarships for college students for the 2022 - 2023 school year. Applications for scholarships may be obtained at the church office or on-line at [preschurchky.org](http://preschurchky.org). Application forms will be available starting Thursday, June 30th. To be considered for a scholarship completed forms must be received by the church by close of business on Thursday, July 21st. A decision regarding scholarship awarding will be made by Thursday, July 28th. Recipients will be notified by phone.
- **EVANSVILLE OTTERS** The date for the Evansville Otters outing had to be changed. There is a sheet with optional dates in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark the date that would work best for you and your family.
- **BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG** The Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser for Marsha's Place ends today. Please return your filled bottles to the church and we will deliver them to Marsha's Place.
- **CHOIR PRACTICE** The Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir will not be meeting again until mid-August.
- **TRIVIA NIGHT** sponsored by the Rotary Club is Sat., June 25. Looking for players to represent our church. Let Pastor Eric know if you are interested.
- **These Days**

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

### **\*Call to Worship**

Come, bless the Lord with me!

**For the Lord is like a father to his children**

compassionate and merciful, filled with endless love.

**He forgives our sins, and heals the sickness inside us;**

he surrounds us with love and mercy and fills our lives with good things!

**Let's worship God together!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

God and father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, you have gathered us as your own family, happy to act as our father and to have us call you father, providing us with all we need to live and thrive on earth.

This day we thank you for the blessing of fathers, for all our own fathers have done for us to rear us to take care of ourselves and our world, to guide us into the paths of peace and righteousness, to show us how to be both strong and gentle.

We pray for those men who are fathers who find themselves unable or unwilling to fulfill their roles as dad for their children.

We pray for new fathers, learning to care for and enjoy their little ones, experienced fathers who are learning to let go of their children, and for fathers whose unseen presence still guides their adult children.

Bless, we ask, the memory of fathers who have passed into your presence, guide and sustain those whose fatherly work is not yet done, and give us all the grace we need to build up the children of generations who will come after us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**\*Call to Confession**

The geography of sin is a waterless waste. But God gives springs of living water, streams of justice and mercy splashing into the wilderness from the mountain of God. Let us drink deeply of Christ. Let us confess our sins.

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

**Holy One, God Most High, grant us faith to confess our sins and seek your mercy. There are barren places in our lives where we have wandered far from you. We have listened to voices who distracted us from your call. We have submitted to powers competing for our loyalty to you. We have not taken the hand you offer to lead us out of godforsakenness, and into your holy ways. God our Savior, forgive us. Quench our thirst for you from the Rock of our salvation, and let your love well up in us unto eternal life. Speak tenderly to us of your presence. Feed us with your word. Deliver us from evil. Let us enter into your kingdom; then send us out to serve you by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Christ Jesus is the bread of life, manna come down from heaven. Christ covers us with baptismal waters, so that our lives are hidden in him. This Jesus, the Son of the Most High God, is sovereign even over the powers of evil, so that his reign brings freedom and joy. Therefore, I declare to you by the power of the Holy Spirit, 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.

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

**Prayer for Illumination**

Holy, Holy, Holy One, your words feed us, the Word frees us, and the Spirit gives us life. Grant our ears an appetite for hearing and our spirits strength for loving you. Amen.

**First Reading**      Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**Special Music**      Organ & Piano Duet

Susan Thomas, Piano & Kristin Jones, Organ

**Second Reading**      James 1:13-18

No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire

has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my beloved.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

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

- Proverbs 4:1 says, "Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding." How many of you listen to the wise things that your father says to you? After all, your father is older, has far more experience, and is much wiser than you are. To prove my point, I have made a list of the top ten sayings of a wise father. I am sure that you have heard many of these wise sayings from the lips of your very own father.
  - Why? Because I said so, that's why!
  - Just wait 'till you have kids of your own.
  - What did I just get finished telling you?
  - This is going to hurt me more than it does you.
  - Do I look like I'm made out of money?
  - Not now, I'm watching the game.
  - When you break your leg, don't come running to me!
  - No! We are NOT lost.
  - Be quiet! Can't you see I'm trying to think?
  - How should I know? Ask your mother!
- No, that's not wisdom!!! Father's are not perfect, but they are a source of wisdom.
- All you need to do is **pay attention** to learn the good things from your father.
- Because this is Father's Day, it would be a good idea to say, thank you to our fathers.
- Take time to thank him for the things you eat, wear, and have.

### **SERMON**      "Resisting Deadly Temptation"

James 1:13-18

June 19, 2022

- From a classified ad in an employee newsletter: "For Sale—Toddler bed, white metal frame, practically new, but had monsters under it, \$20."
- Apparently the bed was the host for the monsters, and the parents simply had to get rid of the bed.
- Today there is a new kind of monsters that are more friendly and appealing than scary.



- Because of friendly monster's kind nature, these types of monsters are more appealing and many more people are attracted to them, right?
- In the same way there is the lure of these friendly monster's is the reality of sin and temptation in the Christian life, and sometimes is just as attractive and appealing.
- But sin and temptation can have lethal consequences.
- James wrote this letter because he wanted all Christians who were scattered throughout Palestine to remain steadfast in their faith.
- He wanted them to be able to resist the temptation of flirting with abandoning God completely.
- Last week we looked at the first part of James 1 where it taught us about how to have an "Unshakeable Faith" by facing trials head-on with the anticipation that trials will only make us stronger.
- This morning we will look at "Resisting Deadly Temptation."

Ways to Resist Deadly Temptation:

### **1. Know the Source of Temptation**

*13 No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one.*

- When you get to verse 13, James makes a shift through a play on words.
- The word "tempted" in our text has the same root word as "trial" in last week's text.
- When the word is used in this grammatical form, it no longer refers to the outward, external circumstantial trial like persecution, but to an inner enticement to sin: something we call "temptation."
- James plunges right into this topic because of his deep concern for these young Christians scattered throughout Palestine and the difficulties they will face: trials and the temptation to quit.
- Enduring difficult circumstances are opportunities to push forward, but when faced with temptations, it will often set us back.
- You see trials will either move us forward into deeper faith or or set us back to completely abandon our faith.
- J.A. Motyer says, "The call to endure and mature was abandoned in favor of the suggestion of giving up."
- This was James' passionate concern that the people of the dispersion will not abandon their faith.
- Let's all be honest, when faced with difficulty, it is too easy to place the blame on someone else, and especially God.
  - Is it not then all God's fault?
  - Did he not put me there?
  - Was it not by His will that I found myself cornered by temptation which proved too strong?
- James has 2 responses to theologially educate his readers:
  - First, God cannot be tempted by evil because of His holy nature.
  - Another way of saying it is that God is "untemptable."
  - Second, God tempts no one.

- God may test someone, but the nature and character of God is that He tempts no-one.
- James is saying God can be trusted.
- The cause of one's failure does not lie in God, but from a different source.
- From where does temptation come?

## 2. Understand the Steps of Temptation

*14 But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; 15 then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved.*

- There is an old phrase "The Devil made me do it"
- This places blame on someone or something else.
- Humanity has been doing this for thousands of years.
- In the Garden of Eden, when God asked if they ate from the tree of which they were commanded not to eat...
  - Man's response was "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."
  - Woman's response: "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."
- Humans has been shifting the blame to anything else for our wrongdoings from the beginning of time.
- Notice, in our text when it says, "But one is tempted by one's own desire"
- The real essence of temptation is not external like "the devil made me do it," but it is internal where we must confess that "I have sinned...by my own fault, my very own fault" and take full responsibility for our actions
- When we place the blame upon God, it gives us rationale to not trust God.
- The temptation of abandonment of our faith lies only in ourselves!!!
- The tempting voice is the voice of our own sinful nature.
- What does that look like?
- There are four steps of our sinful nature: Desire, Enticement, Conception, and Death
  - A. **Desire** - "*Each one is tempted by one's own desire*"
    - Temptation is everywhere.
    - Evil knocks on the door of our imagination.
    - There is a phrase, "Opportunity knocks once, but temptation beats on the door every day."
    - The word for "desire" is sometimes translated as "evil desire," "lust," or "craving"
    - The force of the word is not so much about the object of desire is bad but it is the strength of the desire.
    - It might be better framed as over-desire.
    - Each one is tempted by one's own "over-desire"
    - We all desire something— is that always bad?
    - For example you may desire respect, or refuge from the stresses of life, or to be rewarded or recognized.
    - These desires by themselves are not bad, but it is the over-desire that tempts us to move to the next stage.
  - B. **Enticement** - "*being lured and enticed*" (These are fishing terms.)
    - Enticement has is a two step process:

- i. A trigger - this is anything that gets the process started, anything that gets the motor going.
    - This could be like a sexual trigger, something that creates a state of tension like hunger, stress, exhaustion, boredom, or a relational trigger like someone insulting you or rejecting you.
    - A trigger is simply an external event or an internal state of mind that serves as a catalyst.
  - ii. A tempting thought - This is taking temptation out for a test drive where the will is weakening and the temptation is getting more alluring
    - You are thinking, processing, considering, calculating.
    - This tempting thought is often accompanied by some kind of emotion like frustration or preoccupation or anticipation or a growing obsession.
- A. Desire
- B. Enticement
- C. **Conception** - *"then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin,"*
- This is where a hook has been set.
  - In fishing, it is when the fish bites, and you pull on the rod to "set the hook."
  - This is what the Satan does, he sets the hook.
  - This is when desire becomes action.
  - The time between conception and birth might take a day, hours, or maybe only minutes, but birth is the natural follow-through of conception.
  - Notice the birthing terms used here.
  - This is the next stage of what James calls the birth of sin.
  - Sin is now conceived.
  - In the field of neuroscience, this is called hypofrontality
  - We have a region of our brains call our prefrontal cortex.
    - This region of the brain is meant to slam on the breaks from all the impulses we feel, to help us make sane, and make wise decisions based on our goals and our values.
    - But hypofrontality happens when, after we've given into temptation over and over and over many times, this region of our brain grows weaker and weaker, like a muscle that atrophies.
    - Hypofrontality literally erodes our willpower and our moral compass.
  - In the context of the early scattered Christians, it was the decision to give up on God completely.
- D. **Death** - *"that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death."*
- When you see the word death, it doesn't mean the final stop of life.
  - It is a word to describe the whole process of decay and misery that result from sin.
  - EX: for me when I hear death, I immediately think funeral.
  - But the way James is using this text it means spiritual death.
  - This is when we no longer trust God for who he is and walk away to become like everyone else.

*Do not be deceived, my beloved.*

- When you know the steps of temptation, you will see how temptation overcomes you
- Know exactly what is happening to you.
- The way to not fall into this deception is to say, "NO" and move into another direction.

### **3. Realize the Solution for Temptation**

- James here is very abrupt.
- James seems to be arguing against the idea of evil and temptation coming from God.
- Here he gives the solution to the problem of sin and temptation that God is generous and perfect.
- Because the solution to temptation, is a great understanding of God.

*17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift,*

#### a. God is bountiful

- He is both the giver and the gift.
- God's giving has inexhaustible supply without limits.
- God's giving is perfect.
- Can you imagine, God give us everything we need to resist sin and temptation.
- Best of all he gives us himself which is perfect for all we need and unending.
- This is the bounty of God!
- No longer do we have to hide behind the closed doors of our hearts, but allow God to bring his perfect self into the hidden areas of our lives.

*is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

#### b. God is unchanging

- Satan is the prince of darkness, God is the Father of lights.
- Satan's offspring is sin and death; God gives us salvation and life
- God has the ability to shine his exposing light upon the secret parts of our lives so that God comes into our lives and offer forgiveness.

*18 In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*

#### c. God offers new beginnings

- Here James does not give up on the birthing analogy when he says, "He gave us birth"
- Friends, those who have faith in Jesus Christ have been given a new birth by the gospel or "the word of truth."
- Here is the tie to Father's Day.
- God is the Father of lights who give "birth" to those who place their faith in Jesus Christ.
  - Fatherhood is part of God's nature.
  - He is the Father of Jesus Christ and through him is our Father.
  - (By the way, earthly fathers can learn how to be a father, by learning, knowing, emulating from the heavenly Father.)
- New birth was a popular early Christian way of describing conversion or people who have found faith in Christ.

- With this new birth there comes new life, new energies, new prospects and, above all, a new relationship with God, by whose will the birth has come about.
- God is the one who creates and renews us spiritually with a new birth.
- We are his handiwork and His prize possession.
- This is what James means that we are his first fruits.

### Resisting Deadly Temptation

1. Know the Source of Temptation
2. Understand the Steps of Temptation
3. Realize the Solution for Temptation

### \*Hymn STF "2052 "The Lone, Wild Bird"

1 The lone, wild bird in lofty flight Is still with you, nor leaves your sight. And I am yours! I rest in you. Great Spirit, come, and rest in me, too.	My days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears, My deepest joys, my silent tears.
2 The ends of earth are in your hand, The sea's dark deep and far-off land. And I am yours! I rest in you. Great Spirit, come, and rest in me, too.	4 In secret depths you knit my frame, Before my birth you spoke my name; Within my soul, as close as breath, So near to me, in life, in death.
3 Each secret thought is known to you, The path I walk my whole life through;	5 O search me, God, my heart reveal, Renew my life, my spirit heal; For I am yours, I rest in you, Great Spirit, come, rest in me, too.

### Offering

God gives us more than enough for our journey of faith. Let us present our tithes and offerings so that others may know their blessings and give thanks to God.

#### \*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

Triune God, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, you bring hope to the despairing, healing to the sick, and release from bondage to all who are oppressed by sin and evil. Direct our gifts to fulfill your purpose as we await the time when all creation is one in your love, by the grace of Jesus Christ and the community of the Holy Spirit. 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**

- Bill Fidler open heart surgery, Thursday
- Pray for Cindy's Nephew Scott, stage 4 lymphoma, chemo treatments

Holy God of earth and sky, in your presence mountains quake, flames tremble, and the winds roar "Hallelujah!"

We pray for the coming of your kingdom. May all who dwell in heaven and throughout the world be joined in giving you praise.

We pray for the nations and people of the world. Let us receive your reign with gladness. Grant world leaders wisdom and humility, that they may guide your flocks in the ways that make for peace. Give us ears to attend to the wisdom found in Your Word.

We pray for the most vulnerable: for those of the human family who are poor, homeless, or refugees ... victims of political or domestic violence ... those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit .... Grant us compassionate hearts, inspired minds, and wills resolved to care for our neighbors with the love of Christ Jesus.

### **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)