

Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church

Order for the Worship of God — 10:30 a.m. on November 1st 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

II Thessalonians 2:13-15

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

OPENING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Sky (TH# 167)
Edward Caswall (1853, 1858)

1. When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

3. Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

6. Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Be this th'eternal song,
through all the ages on:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended to the dead.
The third day He arose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 10:19-31

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 10:32-39

SERMON

A Crisis of Faith

Rev. Jake Susek

PRAYER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

CLOSING HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness (TH# 32)
Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

CCLI: 11601899

SERMON NOTES

“Come to the Banquet”

Feasting on the Rich Theological Truths of Hebrews

A Crisis of Faith

Hebrews 10: 32-39

Reflections:

“All arguments in justification of suffering provoke bitter resentment against the author. You would like to know how I behave when I am experiencing pain, not writing books about it. You need not guess, for I will tell you; I am a great coward. What I think of pain – of anxiety that gnaws like fire and loneliness that spreads out like a desert, and the heartbreaking routine of monotonous misery, or again of dull aches that blacken our whole landscape or sudden nauseating pains that knock a man’s heart out at one blow, of pains that seem already intolerable and then are suddenly increased, of infuriating scorpion-stinging pains that startle into maniacal movement a man who seemed half dead with his previous tortures – it ‘quite o’ercrows my spirit.’

If I knew any way of escape, I would crawl through sewers to find it. I am not arguing that pain is not painful. Pain hurts. I am only trying to show that the old Christian doctrine of being made ‘perfect through suffering’ is not incredible. To prove it palatable is beyond my design.” C.S. Lewis in The Problem of Pain

“To turn this hatred away from himself Nero accused the Christians of having set the fire. The accusation certainly was not true, but large numbers of Christians were arrested and a terrible persecution followed. Many Christians were even crucified. Some were sewn up in the skins of wild beasts; then big dogs were let loose upon them, and they were torn to pieces. Women were tied to mad bulls and dragged to death. After nightfall Christian were burned at the stake in Nero’s garden. The Roman people who hated the Christians were free to come into the garden, and Nero drove around in his chariot enjoying the horrible spectacle to the full.”

From Bruce Shelley, Church History in Plain Language (Rec. by Pastor Bill)

“You and I don’t always live what we say we believe. There is often a disconnect between our confessional theology and our street-level functional theology.” P. Tripp

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

[a] Biting off more than *we* can chew....

[b] The reason for the book: There were a (small) group of Jewish believers in Jesus who were facing *severe* persecution for their faith. They were on the verge of giving up their faith in Jesus to return to Judaism. The book was written to encourage these young believers to persevere in their faith.

[c] An immediate “connection” with us. Many believers experience a “crisis of faith” – for various reasons – *intellectual, disappointment, confusion, hardship, suffering*....and many are tempted to “quit” and walk away...

I. Let’s look at the Problem: Persecution

Hebrews 10:32-34

Vs. 32 – They experienced this suffering when first converted...but suffering “gets old fast.”

Vs. 33,34 – A description...

Public humiliation

Physical and Psychological Persecution

Partners in Prison

Property Plundered

*If “pleasure” is one of our “idols”....these folks were in quite the predicament.

*Perhaps most of us want to get down the road of life as long as possible and in the best possible shape. – Paul Tripp

Job 3:25

“What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.”

Hebrews 11:36 – the “Others”....

II. Let’s understand the Call: Persevere

*Note: The book is written initially to a small group of people...

(Heb. 2:1-3a; 3:12-19; 6:11,12; 10:35-38)

[a] This is a CONSISTENT Call to God’s Covenant People...

-Parable of the Seeds

-Matt 24:13....”But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

-1 Co 15:1,2... “...you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached...

[b] This is an ENCOURAGING Call to God’s Elect People...

Heb 6:9 - “We feel sure of better things, things that accompany salvation

Heb 10:39 - “But we are not of those who shrink back...but of those who have faith

Phil 1:6 – He who began a good work in you...

Phil 2:12,13 – Work out...for it is God who is at work in you to will and to do.

John 6:39 – that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me.

III. Why should I? Promises

*What’s wrong with being Jewish?

*The Challenge in our Culture:

“We’re all God’s children” – Pope Francis

Really? John 1:12 / John 8:42 / Eph 2:12

#1. Because the Gospel is True (That’s the Confidence in vs. 35 / and the book)

Tammy Faye: “I’d believe in the Gospel even if it wasn’t true.” (?)

Liberals: “Gospel stories = Events metaphorized”

#2. Because the Promises of God are Reliable

I look further down the road - vs. 37,38

#3. Where else can you go? (John 6:68 / Heb 10:26)

Help in raising our children...