

Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church

Order for the Worship of God — 10:30 a.m. on March 14th 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

I Peter 2:9

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

OPENING HYMN

God of Our Fathers (TH# 710)
Daniel Crane Roberts (1876)

1 God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the
skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

2 Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

3 From war's alarms, from deadly
pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever-sure defense;
thy true religion in our hearts increase,
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

4 Refresh thy people on their toilsome way,
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Affirmation of Faith The Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647)

Leader: What is God?

People: God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

Leader: Are there more Gods than one?

People: There is but one only, the living and true God.

Leader: How many persons are there in the godhead?

People: There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:35-40

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

Isaiah 53:1-3

SERMON

The Rejection of the Servant

Rev. Jake Susek

PRAYER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

CLOSING HYMN

Like a River Glorious (TH# 699)
Frances R. Havergal (1874)

1 Like a river glorious is God's perfect
peace,
over all victorious in its bright increase;
perfect, yet it floweth fuller ev'ry day,
perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.

2 Hidden in the hollow of his blessed hand,
never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
not a blast of hurry, touch the spirit there.
[Refrain]

Refrain:

Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest,
finding, as he promised, perfect peace and
rest.

3 Ev'ry joy or trial falleth from above,
traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.
We may trust him fully all for us to do;
they who trust him wholly find him wholly
true. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

CCLI: 11601899

SERMON NOTES – 1ST MOVEMENT

“The Rejection of the Servant”

(and the Triumph of Grace)

Isaiah 53:1-3

Where Theology Touches Life

REFLECTIONS:

“Jesus doesn’t love to rule, He rules to love.” Rich Craven

‘Hey, clear the way in the old bazaar, hey you, let us through, it’s a bright new star!

Now come, be the first on your block to meet his eye! Ring bells, bang the drums.

You’re gonna love this guy!

Prince Ali, fabulous he, Ali Ababwa!...

Come and meet his spectacular coterie!” From the movie, Aladdin

“That probationary year unearthed a hidden assumption that I could be nuanced or articulate or culturally engaged or compassionate enough to make the gospel more acceptable to my neighbors. But that belief is prideful. From its earliest days, the gospel has been both a comfort and an offense.”

Tish Harrison Warren – talking about her experience at Vanderbilt Univ.

“What shall we say of those who think that conversion is wrought by the free will of man, and due to his own betterness of disposition? When we shall see the dead rise from the grave by their own power, then may we expect to see ungodly sinners of their own free will turning to Christ. No sin, no corruption, no devils in hell nor sinners upon earth, can stay the hand of God’s grace when it intends to convert a man.”

C.H. Spurgeon in Sept.8th in Morning and Evening

A Quick Review and Observation of the text

a. Overture – *The Exaltation of the Suffering Servant* (52:13-15)

b. 1st Movement – *The Rejection of the Suffering Servant* (53:1-3)

Two structural questions...vs.1

Who has believed...

To Whom has God revealed...

c. The fact of rejection...vs. 2,3

John 1:12 - He came to his own, but his own received him not...

d. Not the first warning...

Isa 6:9 - ever hearing, but never understanding, ever seeing, but never perceiving
ears dull / eyes closed / hearts calloused

Jesus and Paul both quote from Isaiah 9 (Matt 13 / Acts 28)

The Problem: Has God failed?

Rom 9:6 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed.

-The Metropolitan Opera / -Alladin

-Does God need a better marketing plan?

[Matt 12:15ff in fulfillment of Isa 42:2]

The Reasons for Rejection (“who can believe? – *The Jewish Study Bible*)

a. Personal reasons...

-Religious Expectations.../ Personal Disappointments / Exclusive Claims & Commitment

b. Theological Reasons

What happened at Vanderbilt University

Our MINDS are DARKENED

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbeliever, to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ.” II Co 4:4

Our WILLS are ENSLAVED

“...and escape from the snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will”

II Tim 4:26

Our HEARTS are COLD

“Lovers of self...rather than lovers of God” - II Tim 3:2

“Men love darkness rather than light” - John 3:19

*A personal complicity in the schemes of the Devil (**The Capitol riot**)

“You have not yet considered
what a heavy weight sin is.”
Anselm

RESULT:

“I get no joy from all the joy I provide. I’m just like you Dave – yeah, I’m dead inside.”

Part of song by Nathan Lang in tribute to David Letterman

“You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers:

You always resist the Holy Spirit.” Stephen in Acts 7:51

The Cause for Belief (“to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?”)

[a] **The Father Reveals**...- Matthew 16 / II Co 4:6

“Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my father...”

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

[b] **The Son Reveals** - Matthew 11:27

“No one knows the Father, except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

[c] **The Spirit Reveals** - I Co 2:4.5.10

“God has revealed it to us by His Spirit”

RESULT:

“The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.” - Acts 16:14

“...who through **grace** had believed” – Acts 18:27

APPLICATION

***Deep Appreciation** – because *Grace has overcome your resistance!*

Matt 13:16 - “Blessed are your eyes – see / your ears – hear”

***Genuine Repentance** - because *our behavior hasn’t always made the Gospel attractive!* Titus 2:10 “in every way make the teaching about God our Savior attractive!”

***Dependent Prayer** – we pray for God to work through us!

Acts 14:1 - “they spoke in such a way that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.”

***Come!** -We are to compel people to come! [inclusive, not exclusive]

John 6:37 - “Whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”