

Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church

Order for the Worship of God — 10:30 a.m. on May 23rd 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremiah 29:11

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

OPENING HYMN

To You, O Lord, I Fly (TH# 692)

1 To you, O Lord, I fly
and on your help depend;
you are my Lord and King Most High;
great God, my soul defend.
A heritage for me Jehovah will remain;
my portion rich and full is he,
my right he will maintain.

2 The lot to me that fell
is beautiful and fair;
the heritage in which I dwell
is good beyond compare.
I praise the Lord above
whose counsel guides aright;
my heart instructs me in his love
in seasons of the night.

3 I keep before me still
the Lord whom I have proved;
at my right hand he guards from ill,
and I shall not be moved.
Life's pathway you will show,
to your right hand will guide,
where streams of pleasure ever flow,
and boundless joys abide.

Affirmation of Faith The Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647)
Questions 33-35

Leader: What is justification?

People: Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Leader: What is adoption?

People: Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of, the sons of God.

Leader: What is sanctification?

People: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

II Peter 3:1-13

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

Psalms 56:3

SERMON

When I am Afraid, Part 3

Rev. Jake Susek

PRAYER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

CLOSING HYMN

I Need Thee Every Hour (TH# 674)

1 I need thee ev'ry hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine
can peace afford.

2 I need thee ev'ry hour;
stay thou near by;
temptations lose their pow'r
when thou art nigh. [Refrain]

Refrain:
I need thee, O I need thee,
ev'ry hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.

3 I need thee ev'ry hour,
in joy or pain;
come quickly, and abide,
or life is vain. [Refrain]

4 I need thee ev'ry hour;
teach me thy will,
and thy rich promises
in me fulfil. [Refrain]

5 I need thee ev'ry hour,
Most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed,
thou blessed Son. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

CCLI: 11601899

SERMON NOTES

“When I am Afraid.”

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

Psalm 56:3

PART III: *The Divine Plan – Resurrection and Renewal*

Reflections:

“The New Testament invites us to *imagine* a new world as a beautiful, healing community; to envision it as a world vibrant with life and energy, incorruptible, beyond the reach of death and decay; to hold it in our mind’s eye as a world reborn, set free from the slavery of corruption, free to be truly what it was made to be. This is the pole by which we must set our compasses so that we find our way along the intermediate paths that lie before us.” N.T. Wright in Evil and the Justice of God

“Well may the Accuser roar

Of ills that I have done:

I know them all, and thousand more:

Jehovah knoweth none!”

From a hymn by Samuel Gandy

“The use of human reason alone cannot force us to believe in the resurrection. There is room for intellectual doubt of most any historical event. On the other hand, we can see that belief in the resurrection of Christ is *not* A BLIND LEAP OF FAITH. It has left an enormous footprint, as it were, in history. This is why it “poses that kind of challenge to the larger worldview of both the historian and the scientist.” Resurrection faith is not blind belief that rejects human reason – it “transcends but includes what we call history and what we call science.” The resurrection means not merely that Christians have a hope *for* the future but that they have a hope that comes *from* the future.”

Tim Keller quoting N.T. Wright in Hope in Times of Fear.

“As a child, I took it for granted that Easter meant that Jesus literally rose from the tomb. I now see Easter very differently. For me, it is irrelevant whether or not the tomb was empty. [I see the stories of Jesus resurrection] as powerfully true metaphorical narratives.” Marcus Borg in The Meaning of Jesus

(a)

Liberal View)

Who would not be a Christian? Who would not bear the present cross for the crown which cometh afterwards? But herein is work for patience, for the rest is not for to-day, nor the triumph for the present, but “afterward.” Wait, O soul, and let patience have her perfect work.”

Spurgeon 5/18 pm

Introduction:

Song: Over the Rainbow (Garland, IZ, Susan Boyle – James Taylor)

What a Wonderful World (Louis Armstrong)

Problem:

Death brings an end.... / Atheism / Buddhism

Illustration:

General Eisenhower addressing the 101st Airborne Expeditionary Force...

Today: God’s Plan to Put things to Right – *Resurrection and Renewal*

Let’s Observe the Text, Romans 8:18-25

[a] Our SUPERLATIVE *Future*

[b] An ASSURED *Future*

[c] Our need for PATIENCE

[a] Our Superlative future

-vs. 18 - a “comparison”

-Paul Harvey on comparing...

-II Co 4:17 -LIGHT / MOMENTARY / AFFLICTION
WEIGHT ETERNAL GLORY

IMPLICATIONS:

(1) The intermediate state after death... (a trip I took with my Dad)

PICTURES

-Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints...

-I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever...

-Truly, truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise

-In my Father’s house are many dwelling places

-You will have treasure in heaven

-To die is gain / to be with the Lord

-A heavenly city

-Angels in festal gathering / spirits of the saints made perfect

(2): *Our Future Resurrection* [Life after Life After Death – N.T. Wright]

The “glory” in vs. 18 = the revealing of the sons of God in vs. 19

= the redemption of our bodies in vs. 23

***A song we sang in youth group...

Oh Lord, you know I’ve got no friend like you, if heaven’s not my home oh Lord what will I do.

NOTE:

“Time” signatures....*when this occurs....that occurs....*

*When our resurrection occurs....the whole of creation will be renewed.... 20-23

*When our resurrection occurs....the promise of death’s defeat will occur... I Co 15:54,55

*When our resurrection occurs...all will be resurrected...John 5:28,29

(3) Resurrection and Renewal is more than just new bodies / new geography – it means God making compensation for things we have suffered – or putting things to right (i.e., whose going to fix this?).

Rev 21:4 - “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

IMPORTANT:

C.S..Lewis - *Hell cannot hold heaven hostage* (how can I be happy if a loved one is in hell?)

The “Feast” in Luke 15 - The “feast” goes on, whether or not the elder brother wants to join in.

[b] An ASSURED future:

*Why would Paul be talking about resurrection bodies?

*Our hope is based on the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave.

Cf. What ‘Liberals’ teach....

I Co 15 = *It’s all or nothing.....* There is no “middle” ground, cf. Pew report on American Judaism [the empty tomb / the eye-witnesses / the change in the disciples / why?]

[c] Our need is for PATIENT ENDURANCE:

Vs. 24,25

*The oft repeated cry in the Psalms – “How Long, Oh Lord. How Long?”

“When the world my heart is rending with its heaviest storm of care, my glad thoughts to heaven ascending, find a refuge from despair. Faith’s bright vision shall sustain me till life’s pilgrimage is past;

Fears may vex and troubles pain me, I shall reach my home at last.”