

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

October 4, 2020

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Dee Hammond, *Pastor of Missions & Outreach*

The Song of Ascent *God's people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.*

Congregation *Every Promise of Your Word*

From the breaking of the dawn to the setting of the sun,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Words of power, strong to save, that will never pass away,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
For Your covenant is sure, And on this I am secure—
I can stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
You are faithful to forgive that in freedom I might live,
So I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Guilt to innocence restored, You remember sins no more—
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

When I'm faced with anguished choice, I will listen for Your voice,
And I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Through this dark and troubled land
You will guide me with Your hand
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
And You've promised to complete Ev'ry work begun in me—
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

Hope that lifts me from despair, love that casts out ev'ry fear,
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Not forsaken, not alone, for the Comforter has come,
And I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe—
We will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

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ADORATION OF GOD

Call to Worship: "Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. "You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land... And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous." -Nehemiah 9.5-7

Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Hymn of Praise *For All the Saints*

{Please note: we recommend using the hymnal for this hymn}

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia! Alleluia!

CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE

Mission Moment

Pastoral Prayer

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Gift of Music

Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offering

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Testimony

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

(Children ages 3 through 3rd grade may be escorted to Children's Church)

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains, Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns, And scatters night away.

Chorus: *I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)*

I am bound for promised land,

I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)

I am bound for promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, Are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place, And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, And in His bosom rest?

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Reading of God's Word

Genesis 11:27-12.4a

²⁷ Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. ³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran. Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country¹ and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him...

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

The Day the World Changed

Pastor John

Series: Walking By Faith—Genesis 12-25

OUR RESPONSE

Prayer of Application

Hymn of Response

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

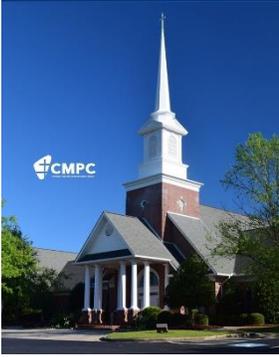
Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be, As long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun

The Benediction and Threefold Amen



Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA

cmpca.org

CMPC Sermon Notes for October 4, 2020

- **Series:** *Abraham and Sarah: Walking By Faith- Genesis 12-25*
- **Message:** *The Day the World Changed*
- **Text:** Genesis 11.27-12.4a

The fly on the wall at an amazing conversation

- Leave...
- Why... God's amazing promises
- Where... will show you

From Macro to Micro, Genesis 11

- Ur, about 2100 BC
 - One of the world's great cities in its day
 - 24,000 people
 - The people of ancient Ur were highly advanced culture. The common district was filled with marketplaces, schools, libraries, and many of the people were very wealthy. People had very nice homes with lush gardens and many conveniences.
 - Ziggurat (still stands); Nanna (aka Sin) had his home on top
- The Bible shifts its focus
 - Global.... To local
- This call to Abraham
- Events, though to a single family, have a cosmic significance
- Genesis 12-50 shares with us the story of a real family... we read about births and deaths, marriages and family quarrels, times of triumph and tragedy... it is the everyday life of one family, yet a story with universal significance for the whole world.
- Fascinating... how episodes in Abraham's life- how many days...

Why Abraham... why now?

- Our Genesis 10-11 Tower of Babel world.
 - Abraham lived in a thoroughly pagan environment, both in Ur and in Canaan
 - The pre-Abrahamic, non-Shemite culture. Humans rebelling against God
 - Defying God's command
 - Making a name for themselves
 - Making up their own religion
 - The Canaanite cesspool of sin
 - Derek Kidner's summary: *"The primeval history reaches its fruitless climax as man, conscious of new abilities, prepares to glorify and fortify himself by collective effort. The elements of the story are timelessly characteristic of the spirit of the world. The project is typically grandiose. Men describe it excitedly to one another, as if it were the ultimate achievement, very much as modern man glories in his space project. At the same time they betrayed their insecurity as they crowd together to preserve their identity and control their fortunes."*
- Book of Shem: God's faithfulness to his promises to Noah... 11.10-26

- The role of grace-based choice
- Terah, after all this, is an idolater
- One of the key figures in history
 - Revered by Jews, Muslims, Christians
- Stunning example of grace, 11.27-12.4a
 - A gospel illustration
 - Faith in the Promises of God.
 - The Promises of God - looking forward to what God is going to do for his glory through Jesus Christ
 - Babel- did not believe the promises of God
 - Children of the Promise to Abraham... Acts 2.39: For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.
- Abraham knew the story of Babel
- Hallowed be thy Name focused- makes much of God's name; at Babel, made much of their own names
- Look for our identity in God/Christ
 - Babel- world looking for identity within- their creativity, power, live life their way
 - John Calvin: "For the plague of submitting to our own rule leads us straight to ruin."
 - Jen Oshman: *Like the alluring but destructive creatures in Greek mythology, self is a Siren. We are indeed attracted to ourselves. But rooting ourselves in ourselves has led to our ruin. The I-can-do-this self-talk and building ourselves up from the inside has exhausted us. We see now that there is no rest for the one who depends on herself for everything. Our current crisis condition is not what the giver of life intended. He created us in a specific way, for a specific purpose. And he intended that we be energized and filled with joy in a relationship with him. Let's admit that we are not enough, and turn to the God who is.*
 - Our identity is to be found in our relationship with Christ
- Called the Friend of God, II Chronicles 20.7; Isaiah 41.8; James 2.23
- God's concern for the nations
- Uncanny ability to see the unseen
 - 20/20 vision in looking for a city
 - In a world where what we see can be so discouraging and so disheartening
 - Pilgrim mentality
- One of the greatest examples of faith and walking by faith in a world where his family was not and his city was not
 - Showed his faith by obedience... at Babel they showed they had no faith by disobedience
- Ultimately, depends on God's faithfulness
 - Abraham will stumble and fall... and God will pick him back up
- He died satisfied

So What About Us?

- We are going to go on a long walk with Abraham
- Sir Isaac Newton: "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." (In a 1675 letter to Robert Hooke)
 - Why we sang *For All the Saints*
- Not all a piece of cake
 - The world in all its brokenness

- The nations in all their turmoil
- The key difference between us and the world... is God's amazing grace
- The key to walking by faith in this troubled world... is God's amazing grace
- The message from us for the world... is God's amazing grace
- The Promise for the future for us is beyond this world... is because of God's amazing grace