

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

February 14, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Travis Brown, *Pastor to Youth*

The Song of Ascent

God's people sang together as they gathered and

traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.

Congregation

Come into His Presence

Come into His Presence with thanksgiving in your heart
and give Him praise-- and give Him praise.

Come into His Presence with thanksgiving in your heart
your voices raise-- your voices raise.

Give glory, and honor, and power unto Him --

Jesus - the name above all names.

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ADORATION OF GOD

Call to Worship:

He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant.

-Psalm 105.7-10

Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

Declaration of Truth:

Deuteronomy 7.6-9

Leader: For you are a people holy to the Lord your God.

All: *The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.*

Leader: It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

All: *Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.*

Gloria Patri

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.

The Gloria Patri's first line was sung in the church as early as the 2nd century to affirm that God is Triune. The second line was added in the 4th century to emphasize the eternal Deity of Jesus, refuting the Arian heresy that Jesus was not eternally God.

Hymn of Praise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen
How thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
What the Almighty will do,
If with his love he befriend thee!

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief
Hath not he brought thee relief,
Spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again;
Gladly fore'er we adore him.

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

Before the Throne of God

(Children ages three through third grade may be escorted to Children's Church)

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea.
A great High Priest whose name is Love
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
my name is written on His heart.

I know that while in heav'n He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart (x2)

When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within
upward I look and see Him there
who made an end to all my sin.
because the sinless Savior died
my sinful soul is counted free.
For God the just is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me. (x2)

Behold Him there the Risen Lamb,
my perfect spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of Glory and of Grace,
one with Himself I cannot die.
My soul is purchased with His blood,
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Savior and my God! (x2)

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Genesis 17.9-14

9 And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. 10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. 12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, 13 both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." ***The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.***

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

The Mark of the Covenant

Pastor John

Series- Abraham & Sarah: Walking By Faith—Genesis 12-25

OUR RESPONSE

Prayer of Application

Hymn of Response *Now I Belong to Jesus*

Jesus, my Lord, will love me forever, From him no pow'r of evil can sever;
He gave his life to ransom my soul, now I belong to Him.

Refrain: *Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me,
Not for the years of time alone, but for eternity.*

Once I was lost in sin's degradation; Jesus came down to bring me salvation,
Lifted me up from sorrow and shame, now I belong to him.

Joy floods my soul for Jesus has saved me,
freed me from sin that long had enslaved me;
His precious blood he gave to redeem, now I belong to him.

The Benediction and Threefold Amen



Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA

cmpca.org

CMPC Sermon Notes for February 14, 2021

Pastor John Batusic

Series: *Walking By Faith- Genesis 12-25*

Message: *The Mark of the Covenant*

Text: Genesis 17. 9-14

Responsibility, 9-10

- Covenant sign/mark to represent an assurance of God's promises and Abraham's responsibility
 - Reminder of grace
 - Appropriate response to grace is faith and obedience
- This command – this responsibility – is for Abraham's own good. That's grace!
 - Walk before me and be blameless- general, not specific.
 - What does that look like? Will not be spelled out in detail until Mt. Sinai 500 years later
- God calling Abraham to commitment- and faith
- Abraham is being asked to seal his commitment to his relationship with God

Symbolism, 11

- Wedding rings are a covenant sign/mark
- Circumcision
 - A common sign in Abraham's day used as a ritual for manhood by neighboring nations
- Sacraments; outward sign of an inward reality
- Abraham realizes his inability to walk before God and be blameless
 - There is sin that must be removed/dealt with
 - In Isaiah 52.1, unclean (meaning sinful) and uncircumcised have the same meaning
 - If uncircumcised symbolizes the presence of sin, circumcision symbolizes the removal of sin- being clean.
- Circumcision also symbolized the need for an outsider to remove sin- and that shedding of blood is required to remove sin.
 - Symbolizes our hearts- the seat of our emotion and attitude to God; cf. Deuteronomy 30.6.
 - Need for circumcision is the need for cleansing from sin.
 - That is a heart circumcision performed by God alone
- If Abraham obeys and carries out his responsibility, it will show he believes God's promise
- It will also give him an outward sign to remind him he belongs to God.

Who is to Be Circumcised? 11-13

- Abraham
 - Note: Abraham is already a believer, Romans 4.9-11
 - Circumcision, like Baptism, "sealed" his faith
- All males 8 days and older who are part of Abraham's entourage
 - All those born in his house or who become part of his household
 - Abraham's physical descendants.
 - Babies are not so innocent
 - Why the 8th day? K factor for blood clotting is 110% of what will be normal (was only 30% on third day)
- Gentiles- already in Abraham's family or who join it
 - And this Gentile man's family, cf. Exodus 12.48
- So circumcision not just a mark that one is physically descended from Abraham- also spiritual descendants

- Baptism replaces circumcision in the New Testament
 - Though Baptism is commanded, it does not save
- Colossians 2.11-12: baptism points to circumcision of the heart
- Mode
 - Not saying much today
 - The word baptizo can mean to immerse, sprinkle, pour, or walk through fog, cf. I Corinthians 10.1-2
- Where Presbyterians and Baptists disagree: baptizing infants of believing parents
 - Absolutely true: the New Testament does not command us to baptize infants of believers
 - Absolutely true:
 - In the Old Testament, the children of believers were included in the family of God and given the sign.
 - The New Testament never tells us to stop including children in the covenant family of God.
- Any Jew becoming a believer in the New Testament would expect his or her children to be given the sign of the covenant
- Were there children in these families?
 - Lydia's family, Acts 16.14-15
 - The Philippian jailer's family, Acts 16.31-33
 - Stephanus' family, I Corinthians 1.16
 - We won't know until heaven- don't stake theological truth on narrative passages
- Why did God change the sign?
 - Baptism also symbolizes the pouring out of God's Spirit (hence we sprinkle or pour)
 - Still symbolizes sinful nature- sin- is removed or washed away.
 - More gracious- females included
 - Blood is no longer appropriate because the blood of Christ has been shed. His blood is sufficient
 - Peter on the Day of Pentecost, 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."*

Some Questions...

- What if a baptized child grows up and rejects the gospel?
 - The same thing that happened in the Old Testament to the circumcised Jew who grew up and rejected the gospel
 - God's judgment comes
- I was not baptized, but grew up in a Christian home and became a believer. Didn't it work out all right for me?
 - Praise God! Yes! The covenant does work without the sign!
- What are the benefits?
 - As a sacrament, helps us better understand our relationship with God
 - Our children need salvation- need their sin removed and they cannot do it themselves
 - They need the power of the Holy Spirit to live godly lives
 - We have an obligation to introduce them to Jesus
 - Reminds parents of the lifestyle to live before them
 - Proclamation to the that our children need all these things
- What happened in the Old Testament when parents did not circumcise their sons? 17.14
 - The reason for the severity was the conscious deliberate rejection of God's command.
- Is it the same today if parents do not baptize their children?
 - No, as baptism is an outward symbol of an inward reality
 - If parents still carry out their spiritual covenantal obligations without the sign, God will honor that.
 - If they do not, there is grave danger for the child spiritually speaking.
- Key question: do our children, from an early age, understand their need of a Savior?
 - Do they know the privilege of God's family?

- Baptizing them helps them understand those things
- When they become believers, we can point them to the sign and God's faithfulness across the years to bring them from infancy to faith.

So What About Us?

- The outward sign is a privilege
- Desire: our children, our covenant children, children in our community, children in our world