

CVPC Live Stream Order Of Worship

March 29, 2020

Liturgist and Sermon: Dennis Louis Lead Musician: Scott Finch

Meditation: Hebrews 1:1-4

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

Call To Worship: Psalm 95:6

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!”

Opening Hymn & Doxology: 100 | *Holy, Holy, Holy* (with Amen)

1- Holy, holy, holy Lord, God Almighty; Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy Merciful and mighty God in three persons blessed Trinity

2- Holy, holy, holy All the saints adore thee; casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be

3- Holy, holy, holy Though the darkness hide Thee; Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee; Perfect in power, in love, and purity

4- Holy, holy, holy Lord, God Almighty; All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy Merciful and mighty; God in three persons blessed Trinity

Pastoral Prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer

Song Preparation: *In Christ Alone*

1- In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2- In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save

Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3- There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4- No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Word: 1 John 2:1-6

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

Homily

Our shared Advocate 1 John 2:1-6

John begins chapter two of his epistle with a startling revelation, Jesus Christ the righteous is our Advocate. This might not be breaking news to us, but it certainly would have been to John's audience. First-century Christians had a robust understanding of Jesus Christ as their mediator – the one who brings reconciliation between God and man by establishing a new covenantal relationship. But the concept of Christ being our Advocate was different for them because, up to this point, John referred to the Holy Spirit solely as our Advocate (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7). The Greek word translated "advocate" or "paracletos" is found exclusively in the writings of John, making its application to Christ even more noticeable. Two questions then

arise from this passage: Why does John refer to Jesus as our Advocate for the first time in this passage, and why does it matter?

Why is Christ referred to as our Advocate?

Jesus Christ, the righteous, is identified as our Advocate in 1 John 2:1. If you read the New Testament cover to cover, you will notice that Christ is also referred to by many different names and titles while on earth: Christ, Lord, Rabbi, Lamb of God, Son of Man/God/David, the Logos, etc. In 1 John alone, we see Jesus as "the one from the beginning" and "eternal life." But there is one title that emphasizes the relationship between the resurrected Jesus and believers on earth explicitly, and it is that of Advocate. Herein lies the difference between the Holy Spirit as our Advocate and Christ as our Advocate. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate on earth, comforting us in times of need and prodding us to righteousness. Jesus Christ is our Advocate who sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven, defending us against the Devil's attacks. Biblical scholar Karen Jobes points out, we must be careful not to put all the focus of Christ as our Advocate on his *ability* to defend us but on his *status* as our Advocate. Based on Christ's status, the believer can rest assured of a good outcome. Our hope is sure because we have a sure advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous!

Why does it matter?

It matters that Christ is our Advocate because of what he does. I can think of no better illustration of what an advocate does than in Zechariah 3. In Zechariah's fourth vision, we see the Messiah's mission of salvation displayed dramatically. The vision plays out like a courtroom scene from a made-for-TV Hollywood movie. The defendant is Joshua, the High Priest who is clothed in rags, muted by the guilt and weight of his sin. Satan, the prosecutor, or, more accurately, the accuser, is standing before the Judge with a litany of charges skillfully laying out the case against the defendant.

The Judge is none other than the Angel of the Lord, who listens patiently to every charge. Joshua's faith hangs in the balance – will he be condemned or justified? In a plot twist no one saw coming, the Judge rebukes that accuser, assures the defendant of his forgiveness, and bestows the accused with clothes of righteousness. The Lord then commissions the accused to work for the Lord in his kingdom.

Like every good movie, some characters are symbolic representations of someone or something else, and this scene is no different. We are the lowly figure in our courtroom scene. Joshua, the High Priest, represents the sinner clothed in unrighteousness and thoroughly unable to give a credible defense. Satan accuses us night and day, John says in Rev. 12:10. He is relentless. The three things Satan has in his favor is that the charges are accurate (Rom. 3:23), the sinner has no excuse (Rom. 1:20), and the guilty must be punished (Rom. 6:23). The Judge forcefully steps in and rebukes the accuser. Our Advocate took the record of death and nailed it to the cross. The sinner is now clothed with the righteousness of Christ!

So what?

The sheer pace and scope of this pandemic we are in the midst of is dizzying. As the pandemic continues to worsen in different parts of the country we are left wondering how bad is this going to get. Some write that this is a clear sign of God's judgment upon us, and this might be the case. But the Christian is not subject to the judgment of God though we feel its effect. We rest in the fact that there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We have this blessed hope because we have a blessed Advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous. As Meredith Kline said, "no longer should we see ourselves as sinners in the hands of an angry God, but sinners in the pierced hands of our Servant-Savior." Yes, it appears as if we are under the judgment of God, but let us not think he is angry with us. Let us not believe that he will destroy us. God always mitigates his judgment; he never pours out his full wrath upon his creation. Scripture does tell us that there is one who experienced the full wrath of God poured out upon him – Christ! We rest assured that we will never experience the full wrath of God because Christ did, once for all. So when the Devil reviles us, when foes assail us, when pestilence strikes us, we have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous, that stands before the throne and rebukes them all. Let us never forget the words of the Apostle Paul in Rom. 8:31-39:

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.¹⁰ 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

"For your sake, we are being killed all day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor

life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

These glorious truths are possible for all of us who are in Christ because he is our Advocate!

The Sending Hymn: 307 | *Nothing But the Blood of Jesus*

1- What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

2- For my pardon, this I see, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. *Refrain*

3- Nothing can for sin atone, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. *Refrain*

4- This is all my hope and peace, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. *Refrain*

5- Now by this I'll overcome— Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Now by this I'll reach my home—Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Benediction: Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.....*so that all the peoples will say...*

C: Amen. Our LORD is faithful. Praise the LORD!