

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church
Order Of Worship
September 27, 2020

Liturgist: Albert Leavengood | Sermon: Rev. Dennis Louis | Lead Musician: Scott Finch

Meditation: I Kings 19: 12-18

And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Call to Worship: Psalm 140:6-8

L: I say to the Lord, you are my God; give ear to the voice of my pleas for mercy, O Lord!

All: O Lord, my Lord, the strength of my salvation, you have covered my head in the day of battle.

L: Grant not, O Lord, the desires of the wicked; do not further their evil plot, or they will be exalted!

All: I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy. Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn: God Moves in a Mysterious Way | 128

1. God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform;
he plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.
2. Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill
he treasures up his bright designs, and works his sovereign will.
3. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.
4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence he hides a smiling face.
5. His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev'ry hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.
6. Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

Pastoral Prayer Followed by The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on 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.

Testimony from a CVPC Family

Song of Preparation: Romans Doxology

1. Oh, the depth of the riches, the wisdom of God!
How unsearchable his ways! How profound are his judgments,
so high above our thoughts, and his pathways no man can trace.

Refrain: For from him and through him, and to him are all things!
To him be glory forevermore! To him be glory forever! Amen! Amen! Amen!

2. Oh, the depth of the riches, the wisdom of God!
How magnificent are his ways! Who has been his advisor
and who has counseled him, all he gives us who can repay? *Refrain*

3. Oh, the depth of the riches, the wisdom of God!
How immeasurable is his grace! How unfailing his kindness,
so far removed his wrath, and his mercies are new each day! *Refrain*

Sermon: "Jesus and the Problem of Justice"

Word: John 2:14-22

14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. **15** And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. **16** And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." **17** His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." **18** So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" **19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **20** The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" **21** But he was speaking about the temple of his body. **22** When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Questions for Reflection: John 2:14-22

1. Read Matt. 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17, and Luke 19:45-46. Did Jesus cleanse the temple more than once? If you think he did cleanse the temple more than once, why do you suppose the practice of the money-changers continued in spite of Jesus' actions.
2. What was the purpose of having the Passover and going to the Temple? Was that purpose being carried on by the religious elites and the moneychangers?
3. What reason did Jesus give for cleansing the temple (vs. 17)? How does that reason help us understand Jesus' statement in John 2:19-21?
4. Read Psalm 69:7-9 and John 2:17. How do these verses help further our understanding of why Christ cleansed the temple?
5. The Jews were shocked by what Jesus did (vs. 18). Why were they so shocked?
6. What are some of the parallels between what is happening in this text and what is happening in our society today?
7. How can Jesus' actions inform our own actions as we seek to do what is right?

Sending Hymn: He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought! | 600

1. He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, he leadeth me; by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. *Refrain*

3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain*

4. And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me. *Refrain*

Benediction: I Thessalonians 3:11-13

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints... so that all the peoples will say...

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

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