

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church
Order Of Worship
October 4, 2020

Liturgist: Rob Chaplin | Sermon: Rev. Dennis Louis | Lead Musician: Scott Finch

Meditation: Leviticus 25:8-17

You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field. In this year of jubilee each of you shall return to his property. And if you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not wrong one another. You shall pay your neighbor according to the number of years after the jubilee, and he shall sell to you according to the number of years for crops. If the years are many, you shall increase the price, and if the years are few, you shall reduce the price, for it is the number of the crops that he is selling to you. You shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God, for I am the Lord your God.

Call to Worship: Psalm 35:27-28

L: Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his salvation.

ALL: All my bones shall say, "O Lord, who is like you, delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, the poor and needy from him who robs him?"

L: Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!"

ALL: Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn: Blow Ye the Trumpet, Blow! | 474

1. Blow ye the trumpet, blow! The gladly solemn sound let all the nations know, to earth's remotest bound:

Refrain: The year of jubilee is come; return, ye ransomed sinners, home; return ye ransomed sinners, home.

2. Jesus, our great High Priest, has full atonement made; ye weary spirits, rest; ye mournful souls, be glad: (Refrain)

3. Extol the Lamb of God, the sacrificial Lamb; redemption through his blood throughout the world proclaim: (Refrain)

4. Ye slaves of sin and hell, your liberty receive; and safe in Jesus dwell, and blest in Jesus live: (Refrain)

5. Ye who have sold for naught your heritage above, receive it back unbought, the gift of Jesus' love: (Refrain)

6. The gospel trumpet hear, the news of heavenly grace; and saved from earth, appear before your Savior's face: (Refrain)

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.

Confession of Sin: Responsive Reading of Psalm 35

L: Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me! Take hold of the shield and buckler and rise for my help! Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers! Say to my soul, "I am your salvation!"

ALL: Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life! Let them be turned back and disappointed who devise evil against me! Let them be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the Lord driving them away!

L: Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of the Lord pursuing them! For without cause they hid their net for me; without cause they dug a pit for my life. Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it! And let the net that he hid ensnare him; let him fall into it—to his destruction!

ALL: Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his salvation. All my bones shall say, "O Lord, who is like you, delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, the poor and needy from him who robs him?" Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask me of things that I do not know.

L: They repay me evil for good; my soul is bereft. But I, when they were sick—I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting; I prayed with head bowed on my chest. I went about as though I grieved for my friend or my brother; as one who laments his mother, I bowed down in mourning.

ALL: But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered; they gathered together against me; wretches whom I did not know tore at me without ceasing; like profane mockers at a feast, they gnash at me with their teeth. How long, O Lord, will you look on?

L: Rescue me from their destruction, my precious life from the lions! I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise you. Let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes and let not those wink the eye who hate me without cause.

ALL: For they do not speak peace, but against those who are quiet in the land they devise words of deceit. They open wide their mouths against me; they say, "Aha, Aha! Our eyes have seen it!" You have seen, O Lord; be not silent! O Lord, be not far from me!

L: Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication, for my cause, my God and my Lord! Vindicate me, O Lord, my God, according to your righteousness, and let them not rejoice over me! Let them not say in their hearts, "Aha, our heart's desire!" Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up."

ALL: Let them be put to shame and disappointed altogether who rejoice at my calamity! Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves against me! Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore,

L: "Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!" Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

Song of Preparation: Holy Spirit, Give Your Grace (stanzas 1, 3, 5)

1. Holy Spirit, give Your grace, for I am full of need. I cannot stand my brokenness nor flee from all my grief. Your Word to me is good; cool salve for burning woes. O Paraclete, carve out my sin and soothe my aching soul.

Alleluia, Amen! Amen! (2x)

3. Holy Spirit, give your love for those dear lambs you feed. Their burdens bear, their trust increase, their confidence--please be. Your providential care, illuminating sight; your resurrection pow'r behold; help them embrace your light.

Alleluia, Amen! Amen! (2x)

5. Holy Spirit, from above, God's gift to us below, who with the Father and the Son eternally is throned. We praise our Triune God, we chant abroad your fame. We sing aloud your faithfulness, we shout your blessed name!

Alleluia, Amen! Amen! (2x)

Sermon: "Making Disciples"

Word: John 3:1-21

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." **3** Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." **4** Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" **5** Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **9** Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" **10** Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? **11** Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Questions for Reflection: John 3:1-21

1. Why did Nicodemus come at night? Did he simply want a private meeting with Jesus uninterrupted by the crowds or was it because of his status as Pharisee and Ruler of the Jews in his community?
2. Nicodemus comes to Jesus because all the signs indicate that God was with him. What signs are Nicodemus referring to? What signs can we exhibit presently that would indicate that God is with us?
3. Jesus' first recorded statement to Nicodemus (vs 3) was that he must be born again. What aspects of a Pharisee/ Ruler of the Jews' theology would make Jesus' statement shocking/perplexing (vs. 4 and 9)?
4. Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27 and John 1:19-34 for context. What does it mean to be "born of water and the Spirit"?
5. Why would Jesus' illustration of the serpent in the wilderness (vs. 14 cf. Num. 21:9) resonate with a Jew? What is the connection between Jesus' illustration in vs. 14 and his statements in vs. 16-21?
6. In Nicodemus, Jesus is confronted with a man steeped in a culture, a belief system, and a lifestyle that hinders him from entering the kingdom of God. List all the things that Jesus said to remove those barriers.
7. How does Jesus' example help us to disciple those in our day steeped in a culture, a belief system, and a lifestyle that hinders them from entering the kingdom of God?

Sending Hymn: O Zion, Haste, Your Mission High Fulfilling | 444

1. O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling, to tell to all the world that God is light; that he who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

Refrain: Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace; tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

2. Behold how many thousands still are lying, bound in the darksome prison-house of sin, with none to tell them of the Savior's dying, or of the life he died for them to win. (Refrain)

3. Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation that God, in whom they live and move, is love: tell how he stooped to save his lost creation, and died on earth that we might live above. (Refrain)

4. Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious; give of thy wealth to speed them on their way; pour out your soul for them in prayer victorious; and all your spending Jesus will repay. (Refrain)

Benediction: Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever... so that all the peoples will say...

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

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