

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church
Order Of Worship
December 27, 2020

Liturgist: David Marr | Sermon: Rev. Dennis Louis | Lead Musician: Scott Finch

Meditation: Revelation 1:9-16

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Call To Worship: Psalm 67

L: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

ALL: that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

ALL: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

ALL: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

L: This is the Word of the LORD!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise | 38

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unchanging and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

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: Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor | 230

1. Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour, all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour, all for love's sake becomes poor.
2. Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising, heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.
3. Thou who art love beyond all telling, Saviour and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Saviour and King, we worship thee.

Sermon: "Lesson Learned?"

Word: Exodus 19:1 - 20:2

19:1 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. **2** They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, **3** while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: **4** 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. **5** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; **6** and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. **8** All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. **9** And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."

When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, **10** the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments **11** and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. **12** And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, "Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. **13** No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." **14** So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and

consecrated the people; and they washed their garments. **15** And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman.”

16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. **17** Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. **18** Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. **19** And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. **20** The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

21 And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. **22** Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them.” **23** And Moses said to the Lord, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, ‘Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.’” **24** And the Lord said to him, “Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest he break out against them.” **25** So Moses went down to the people and told them.

20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying, **2** “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Questions for Reflection

1. In your own words, describe the context and scene of Exodus 19:1-20:2. How would you have felt or reacted if you were near that mountain?
2. Why did the Lord appear to Israel with thundering and lighting? Why did he not appear to them as meek and lowly?
3. The Lord established a covenant with Israel at Sinai. What is a covenant and why does God primarily operate through covenant with his people?
4. Did Israel keep the covenant at Sinai perfectly or did they sin and disobey the covenant?
5. What lesson was God teaching Israel by entering into a covenant with them after being in captivity for over 400 years?
6. For many of us, 2020 has felt like the year of exile, or it has been a year filled with burdens and pains. What lessons do you feel the Lord has taught you and is still trying to teach you?
7. Write down a list of things that you felt God has taught you this year. Pray and ask God that he helps you to remember these lessons for the future.

Sending Hymn: The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear | 368

1. The ends of all the earth shall hear and turn unto the Lord in fear;
all kindreds of the earth shall own and worship him as God alone.
All earth to him her homage brings, the Lord of lords, the King of kings.

2. For his the kingdom, his of right, he rules the nations by his might;
all earth to him her homage brings, the Lord of lords, the King of kings.
All earth to him her homage brings, the Lord of lords, the King of kings.

3. Both rich and poor, both bond and free, shall worship him on bended knee,
And children's children shall proclaim the glorious honor of his Name.
All earth to him her homage brings, the Lord of lords, the King of kings.

4. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heav'nly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
All earth to him her homage brings, the Lord of lords, the King of kings.

Benediction: Psalm 29:11

May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!... *so that all the peoples will say...*

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

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