

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church
Order Of Worship
January 3, 2020

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

Meditation: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Call To Worship: Psalm 54:4-7

L: Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

ALL: He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them.

L: With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.

ALL: For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

L: This is the Word of the LORD!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness | 32

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see: all I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *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.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 103

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

ALL: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

L: Who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

ALL: The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

L: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

ALL: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

L: As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

ALL: For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;

L: For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

ALL: To those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

L: Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

ALL: Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

L: Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.

ALL: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Song of Preparation: What the Lord has Done in Me

1. Let the weak say, "I am strong." Let the poor say, "I am rich."
Let the blind say, "I can see." It's what the Lord has done in me.

2. Into the river I will wade, and there my sins are washed away;
from the heavens mercy streams of the Savior's love for me.

Refrain: Hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb that was slain!
Hosanna, hosanna, Jesus died and rose again!

3. And I will rise from waters deep, caught up in the arms of God.
I will sing salvation's song: Jesus Christ has set me free. *Refrain 2x*

Sermon: "The Call to Spiritual Maturity"

Word: James 1:1-11

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. **2** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. **5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. **6** But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. **9** Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, **10** and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. **11** For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Questions for Reflection

1. The writer of James is believed to be the brother of Jesus. If this is the case (and we believe it is), why would James calling himself the servant of his brother Jesus be so shocking?
2. According to vs. 2, what should be our heart orientation toward trials when they come into our lives?
3. What is the intended goal of the trails we experience, according to vs. 3-4?
4. Why is the process of undergoing trials important for mankind to be perfect and complete (spiritual maturity)? What is unique about mankind's experience of going through trials?
5. What is the connection between wisdom and spiritual maturity (vs. 5-8)? What causes a double minded person to be unstable in all their ways?
6. According to vs. 9-11, one sign of spiritual majority is how we view others. Explain James' point in these verses. How should a spiritually mature person view the poor and rich, poverty and wealth?
7. Would you categorize yourself as spiritually mature? If not, why? What can you do to put yourself on a path of spiritual maturity? If you would say that you are spiritually mature, recount the trails and experiences that have brought you to the place of spiritual maturity.

Sending Hymn: It Is Well With My Soul | 691

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain: It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

3. My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought!—my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

4. O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, "Even so"—it is well with my soul! *Refrain*

Benediction: Numbers 6:24-26

L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace... *so that all the peoples will say...*

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

How to Connect with CVPC

Please visit www.chattvalleypca.com and click *connect with us*.

