

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship
January 24, 2021

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

Meditation: Joshua 1:6-9

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Call To Worship: Psalm 117

L: Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

ALL: For great is his steadfast love toward us,

L: and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

L: This is the Word of the LORD!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn: Praise to the Lord the Almighty | 53

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee! Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee; ponder anew what the Almighty will do, if with his love he befriend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee, decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee. How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief, spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly fore'er we adore him.

Testimony of God's Grace in Our Communities

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: 10,000 Reasons - Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Refrain: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship your holy name; I'll worship your holy name.

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning. It's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes. *Refrain*
2. You're rich in love and you're slow to anger. Your name is great and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness I will keep on singing, ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Refrain*
3. And on that day when my strength is failing the end draws near and my time has come.
Still my soul will sing your praise unending, ten thousand years and then forevermore. *Refrain 2x*

Sermon: "The Face of Partiality"

Word: James 2:1-13

1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. **2** For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, **3** and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," **4** have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? **8** If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. **11** For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Questions for Reflection

1. In your own words, define the sin of partiality?
2. What particular manifestation of the sin of partiality is James dealing with in this passage? Why is James dealing with this?
3. What impact does culture have on the sin of partiality?
4. How does verse vs. 4 help us understand the psychology of the sin of partiality?
5. What are the various ways in which the sin of partiality is seen in our society?
6. How have you seen it in your own life?
7. How does James bring the gospel to bear on the issue of partiality in this passage?

Sending Hymn: Like a River Glorious | 699

1. Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace, over all victorious in its bright increase;
perfect, yet it floweth fuller every day, perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.

Refrain: Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest, finding as he promised, perfect peace and rest.

2. Hidden in the hollow of his blessed hand, never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
not a surge of worry, not a shade of care, not a blast of hurry, touch the spirit there. *Refrain*

3. Every joy or trial falleth from above, traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.
We may trust him fully all for us to do; they who trust him wholly find him wholly true. *Refrain*

Benediction: 2 Corinthians 9:8

God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things,
may abound to every good work... *so that all the peoples will say...*

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

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