

**Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church**  
**Order of Worship**  
**February 07, 2021**

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

**Meditation: Proverbs 1:1-7**

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Call to Worship: Proverbs 2:6-11**

L: For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;

**ALL: He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.**

L: Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

**ALL: Discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you.**

L: This is the Word of the LORD!

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Opening Hymn: O Word of God Incarnate | 140**

1. O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky;  
we praise thee for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

2. The church from her dear Master received the gift divine,  
and still that light is lifteth o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the golden casket, where gems of truth are stored;  
it is the heav'n-drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.

3. It floateth like a banner before God's host unfurled;  
it shineth like a beacon above the darkling world.  
It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging sea,  
'mid mists and rocks and quicksands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.

4. O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,  
to bear before the nations thy true light, as of old.  
O teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see thee face to face.

## **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 Psalter Reading: Psalm 37:30-40**

L: The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

**ALL: The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death. The Lord will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.**

L: Wait for the Lord and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

**ALL: I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree. But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found.**

L: Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace. But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.

**ALL: The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and delivers them;**

L: He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

## **Song of Preparation: Jesus I My Cross Have Taken**

1. Jesus, I my cross have taken. All to leave and follow thee.  
Naked, poor, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my all shalt be.  
Perish, every fond ambition, all I've sought, and hoped, and known.  
Yet how rich is my condition! God and Heav'n are still mine own!

2. Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; thou art not, like them, untrue.  
And while thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might,  
foes may hate and friends disown me, show thy face, and all is bright.

3. Man may trouble and distress me, 'twill but drive me to thy breast.  
Life with trials hard may press me; heav'n will bring me sweeter rest.  
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me while thy love is left to me.  
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with thee.

4. Soul, then know thy full salvation; rise o'er sin, and fear, and care.  
Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee; think what a Father's smile is thine;  
think that Jesus died to win thee—Child of Heaven, canst thou repine.

## Sermon: "Godly Speech"

### Word: James 3:1-18

**1** Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2** For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. **4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. **10** From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. **11** Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. **13** Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. **15** This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. **18** And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

### Questions for Reflection

1. In this section, James is talking about the power of the tongue. James is using the tongue as a metaphor for what?
2. James describes the tongue in many ways, list all of those ways?
3. Read Matt. 15:1-20, what is the connection between Jesus' teaching in this passage and James' teaching here?
4. Why does James start this section with a warning to teachers? What connection does it have to speech?
5. Is James' statement in vs. 2 an excuse to sin or a call to humility or both?
6. Is James merely teaching us not to cuss and swear or is there a deeper heart issue? If so, what is it? What role do vs. 13-18 play?
7. How can you apply what James says in chapter 3 to your life, the life of your community, and your culture?

### **Sending Hymn: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less | 521**

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain:* On Christ the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the 'whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;  
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. *Refrain*

### **Benediction: 2 Peter 1:2-3**

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.... *so that all the peoples will say...*

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

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