

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship
February 21, 2021

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

Meditation: Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

Call to Worship: Psalm 30:8-12

L: To you, O Lord, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?"

ALL: Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

L: Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me! O Lord, be my helper!"

ALL: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

L: that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

ALL: O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

L: This is the Word of the LORD!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn: I Sing the Almighty Power of God | 119

1. I sing th' almighty pow'r of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command and all the stars obey.

2. I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky!

3. There's not a plant or flow'r below but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
and everywhere that man can be, you, God, are present there.

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 and Assurance of Pardon

From the Book of Common Prayer

L: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

ALL: We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

L: Help us to delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

(time of silent confession)

L: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

ALL: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

L: And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will be my people, and I will be your God. *(Ezekiel 36:25-28)*

ALL: We give thanks to our Triune God for this indescribable gift.

Song Preparation: Wonderful, Merciful Savior

1. Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious redeemer and friend;
who would have thought that a lamb could rescue the souls of man;
Oh, you rescue the souls of man.

2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace.
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost our way;
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way.

Refrain: You are the one that we praise.
You are the one we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

3. Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving your own.
Here in our weakness you find us falling before your throne;
Oh, we're falling before your throne. *Refrain 2x*

Sermon: "The Heart of the Matter"

Word: James 4:1-12

1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." **7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. **11** Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **12** There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Questions for Reflection

1. What is the connection between chapter 3 and chapter 4?
2. What are some of the similarities and differences between the word desire (James 1:14, 15) and passions (James 4:1)?
3. In a sentence or two, what causes verbal wars and fighting among ourselves, according to James?
4. Why is friendship with the world enmity with God (vs. 4)?
5. How does vs. 7-10 address our sinful passions?
6. Identify in your own life and in the life of those around you, what causes verbal wars and fights?
7. How can the gospel speak to the passions in our heart that want their own way?

Song of Approach: Spirit of The Living God | 726

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

Break me! Melt me! Mold me! Fill me!

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. *Repeat*

Communion

The Gathering of Offerings & Sending Hymn: Father, I Know That All My Life | 559

1. Father, I know that all my life is portioned out for me;
the changes that are sure to come, I do not fear to see:
I ask thee for a present mind, intent on pleasing thee.

2. I would not have the restless will that hurries to and fro,
seeking for some great thing to do, or secret thing to know;
I would be treated as a child, and guided where I go.

3. I ask thee for the daily strength, to none that ask denied,
a mind to blend with outward life, while keeping at thy side,
content to fill a little space, if thou be glorified.

4. In service which thy will appoints there are no bonds for me;
my secret heart is taught the truth that makes thy children free;
a life of self-renouncing love is one of liberty.

Benediction: Philippians 4:19-20

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever... so that all the peoples will say...

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

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