

**Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church**  
**Order of Worship**  
**March 7, 2021**

**Liturgist: Rob Chaplin | Sermon: Rev. Dennis Louis | Lead Musician: Scott Finch**

**Meditation: Mark 9:14-29**

And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

**Call To Worship: Psalm 54**

L: O God, save me by your name, and vindicate me by your might. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

**ALL: For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life; they do not set God before themselves. Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

L: He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them. 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: The Lord's My Shepherd | 86**

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me, the quiet waters by; he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake; within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill, for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff my comfort still; for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff my comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me: and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be; and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

## **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 Psalm Reading: Psalm 41**

L: Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

**ALL: The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health. As for me, I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!"**

L: My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die, and his name perish?" And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

**ALL: All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."**

L: Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

**ALL: By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.**

L: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

**ALL: Amen and Amen!**

## **Song Preparation: Heal Us, Emmanuel**

*Refrain:* Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are, we long to feel your touch.  
Deep wounded souls to thee fly, O, Savior hear our cry.

1. Our faith is feeble we confess, we faintly trust your word;  
but will you pity us the less? Be that far from you, Lord! *Refrain*
2. Remember him who once applied with trembling for relief;  
"Lord, I believe, with tears he cried, O help my unbelief." *Refrain*
3. She too, who touched thee in the press, and healing virtue stole;  
was answered, "Daughter, go in peace, your faith hath made thee whole." *Refrain*
4. Like her, with hopes and fears, we come, to touch you if we may;  
O! send us not despairing home, send none unhealed away. *Refrain 2x*

## **Sermon: "The Big Takeaway"**

### **Word: James 5:7-20**

**7** Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. **9** Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. **10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. **12** But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. **13** Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. **17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. **18** Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. **19** My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, **20** let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

### **Questions for Reflection**

1. Please take a moment to read the passage several times. After reading through the passage several times, write out a sentence or two defining the following words: patience, grumbling, swearing, steadfastness, and the prayer of faith.
2. How does James 1:2-4 and 5:7-11 relate to each other?
3. Patience and faith seem to be the "big takeaway" that James wants us to focus on, why do you think this is the case?

4. List all the people James calls us to emulate in the passage (for patience and faith). Describe their failures and success in these areas. For example, were the prophets always patient and full of faith?
5. List the ways in which our current cultural moment makes it difficult to exercise the Christian virtues of patience and faith.
6. In what areas do you see yourself and the church lack patience and faith?
7. In what areas of Jesus' life was he called to exercise patience and faith? How can we apply this to our own life?

**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: You Came to Us, Dear Jesus (1,2,3,5) | 596**

1. You came to us, dear Jesus, in our dying, as broken, bleeding, we could make no sign.  
 Compassion, Lord, brought you where we were lying, to lift us up, to pour on oil and wine.
2. You came to us, dear Jesus, in our yearning, as faint and famished we before you stood;  
 compassion, Lord, our emptiness discerning, moved you to multiply the loaves for food.
3. You came to us, dear Jesus, in our fearing: our dread the lashing waves, the tempest shrill.  
 Compassion, Lord, drew you to us, and nearing, to wind and water you said, "Peace, be still!"
5. We come to you, dear Jesus, in your brothers in prison, needy, hungry, sick and cold;  
 compassion, Lord, sees you in all these others, in touching them our Savior's hand we hold.

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

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 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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