

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship
January 31, 2021

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

Meditation: Hebrews 11:29-40

By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Call to Worship: Psalm 46:1-7

L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

ALL: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

L: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

ALL: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

L: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

ALL: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

L: The Lord of hosts is with us;

ALL: The God of Jacob is our fortress.

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn: Wondrous King, All-Glorious | 166

1. Wondrous King, all glorious, sovereign Lord victorious, O, receive our praise with favor!
From thee welled God's kindness tho' we in our blindness strayed from thee, our blessed Savior.
Strengthen thou, help us now; let our tongues be singing, thee our praises bringing.

2. Heavens, spread the story of our Maker's glory, all the pomp of earth obscuring.
Sun, thy rays be sending, thy bright beams expending, light to all the earth assuring.
Moon and star, praise afar him who glorious made you; the vast heavens aid you.

3. O my soul, rejoicing, sing, thy praises voicing, sing, with hymns of faith adore him!
All who here have being, shout, your voices freeing, bow down in the dust before him.
He is God Sabaoth; praise alone the Savior, here and there forever.

4. Hallelujahs render to the Lord most tender, ye who know and love the Savior.
Hallelujahs sing ye, ye redeemed, O, bring ye hearts that yield him glad behavior.
Blest are ye endlessly; sinless there for ever, ye shall laud him ever.

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 Faith: Reciting the Nicene Creed

L: Christians, what do you believe?

ALL: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and of the life of the world to come. Amen.

Song of Preparation: Lord Have Mercy

1. Jesus, I've forgotten the words that you have spoken, promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim. With a doubting heart I follow in the paths of earthly wisdom. Forgive me for my unbelief and renew the fire again.

Refrain: Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy on me. (2x)

2. I have built an altar where I worship things of man, I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from you. So now I am returning to your mercies ever flowing. Please, pardon my transgressions; help me love your name again. *Refrain*

3. I have longed to know you and all your tender mercies: like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end. So I bow my heart before you in the goodness of your presence; your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night. *Refrain 2x*

Sermon: "Loving in Word and Deed"

Word: James 2:14-26

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **18** But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! **20** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; **23** and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. **24** You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. **25** And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? **26** For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Questions for Reflection

1. What is the plain teaching of this text regarding faith and works?
2. Define what faith, works, justified, and righteousness mean in this passage?
3. Read Romans 4:1-8, Gal. 2:15-21, and James 2:14-26. Are Paul and James in conflict? If yes, why? If not, why not? (If you are confused in any way, please talk to one of the Elders).
4. Write out all the rhetorical questions James uses to address the relationship between faith and works and answer them?
5. In 2:15-19, James uses two examples of what faith without works looks like, what are they? Why are these such powerful illustrations?
6. In 2:20-25, James uses two examples of what faith with works looks like, what are they? Why are these such powerful illustrations?
7. Ephesians 2:8-10 says that faith and works are a gift from God! How does this truth impact your heart and mind for Christ?

Sending Hymn: He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought | 600

1. He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, he leadeth me; by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. *Refrain*

3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain*

4. And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me. *Refrain*

Benediction: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which has loved us, and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work... *so that all the peoples will say...*

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

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