

Covenant Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 20, 2020
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Beatitudes

Sermon on the Mount

In this service for September 20, 2020, we remember that we who are poor in spirit, who mourn, and who hunger and thirst for righteousness are called blessed by our Savior. Our faith reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in Him through the cross.

Prelude Two Sinfonias Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn O Christ, the Great Foundation Aurelia

Prayer of Confession

Children's Message

Presentation of Bibles: Veda Mae Calderone, Angela London Chaffers, Charlotte Rose Erb

Musical Selection Sing to the Lord a New Song Robert Lau

People and tongues of every nation sing to the Lord a new song. Bring him a song of jubilation, sing to the Lord a new song. All God's creatures, old men and children, voices raised in hymns of love:

He crowns the humble with salvation, sing to the Lord a new song.

Mountains and hills and all creation sing to the Lord a new song. Join in a hymn of adoration, sing to the Lord a new song. Praise His name, sing Alleluia! Praise Him for his mighty deeds.

This is our song, our supplication: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Praise him, shining stars, and praise him highest heavens. Oh, all kings and princes praise his holy name.

Angels above make melody to him. Now lift your voice, lift up your heart and sing!

Come, Christians, all, now raise your voices, sing to the Lord a new song. Praise and thanksgiving be your choices, sing to the Lord a new song. Sound the trumpet, play on the lute and harp, dance your dance and shout for joy.

Make music now as heaven rejoices, sing to the Lord a new song.

Catherine Carter, soprano; Evelyn Munley, alto; Craig Westbrook, Jr., tenor; Bruce Jordan, bass

Reading from Scripture I Peter 2: 1-10 NRSV

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you

then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reading from Scripture

Matthew 5: 1-11

NRSV

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Sermon

“The Same Kind of Different”

Rev. Scott G. Loomer

Musical Selection

Be Still

David Evans, arr. Jane Holstein

Be still, for the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy One, is here. Come, bow before him now, with reverence and with fear. In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground. Be still, for the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy One is here. Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; he burns with holy fire, with splendor he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place, he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity. Be still. The Holy One is here.

Catherine Carter, soprano; Evelyn Munley, alto; Craig Westbrook Jr., tenor; Bruce Jordan, bass

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Benediction and Blessing

Postlude

Allegro Maestoso (*from the Water Music Suite*)

G. F. Handel

Understandings for Public Worship

Covenant is glad you feel comfortable to join us for public worship today.

We need not tell you these are unusual and apprehensive times we are living in these days. Covenant is working to make this public gathering as safe as possible, which is why we ask the following of you:

*Please wear facemasks while entering and exiting the sanctuary. You are welcome to wear them throughout the worship service, but it is not required.

*Know that the building beyond the sanctuary is closed to us. The only available restroom is in the Ambulatory.

*Your Tithes and Offerings may be contributed at the stationary boxes near each entrance.

*For the time being, we will NOT be standing or singing hymns in the service.

Covenant appreciates that you take all items you brought with you when you depart and prays that this and future experiences of worship, while awkward, may still be meaningful.

*Adult Education classes begin today, meeting in the Covenant room at 9:30 A.M. each week. Monday School begins on September 21st at 6:30 P.M. in the Covenant room.

*Godly play resumes today after the children’s message during worship. Children age 4 through 2nd grade are invited to attend. Kidz Time (3rd—6th grade) and Teen Talk (7th—12th grade) begin next Sunday, September 27th. Classes will meet in the Sawtelle Auditorium, Covenant room and Room 8.