



In everything
give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, NASB

Covenant Presbyterian Church
Sunday, October 4, 2020
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon on the Mount

In this service for October 4, 2020, we remember that every season is a time for prayer and fasting. We grow in our relationship with Christ by communicating with Him, and we learn more about Him and ourselves by giving up those things that can distract us from our connection to Him.

Prelude Psalm Prelude No. 1 *Herbert Howells*
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.
Psalm 34, vs.6

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth *Dix*

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Reading from Scripture Matthew 6: 5-18 *NRSV*

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Children’s Message

Musical Selection Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts *Claude Bass*

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of all, from the blest bliss that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to thee again. Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; thou savest those that on thee call; to them who seek thee

thou art good, to them that find thee all in all. Our restless spirits yearn for thee, where e'er our changeful lot is cast; glad when thy gracious smile, we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast. O Jesus, ever with us stay, make all our moments calm and bright; chase the dark night of sin away, shed o'er the world thy holy light.

Rebecca Fisk, soprano; Kathy Fisk, alto; Patrick Fisk, tenor; Bryan Fisk, baritone

Reading from Scripture

I Thessalonians 5: 12-24

NRSV

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Sermon

“There’s a Wrong Way and a Right Way”

Rev. Scott G. Loomer

Musical Selection

It Is Well With My Soul

traditional, arr. Sonja Poorman

When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well with my soul. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, O my soul! And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.

Rebecca Fisk, soprano; Kathy Fisk, alto; Patrick Fisk, tenor; Bryan Fisk, baritone

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Benediction and Blessing

Postlude

Sortie in E-Flat Major

Louis Lefébure-Wély

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 will meet in the Covenant room at 9:30 A.M. each Sunday morning.

Monday School meets each week at 6:30 P.M. in the Covenant room.

*Godly play (children age 4 through 2nd grade), Kidz Time (3rd—6th grade) and Teen Talk (7th—12th grade) will meet in the Sawtelle Auditorium, Covenant room and Room 8 each Sunday after the Children’s Message during worship.