

We Are the Church: August 23, 2020

Week Thirteen: Growing in Faith and Witness to Christ



PRELUDE: "Andante et Allegro", Balay Austin Efflandt, Trumpet

OPENING SONG

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen.
- L: Listen deeply to these words as we confess our sins, trusting in the mercy of God. Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.
- L: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Let us pray: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading: Acts 17:10-15

The Berean Believers

L: The first reading are selected stories from Acts the 17th chapter.

¹⁰ That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Beroea; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Beroea as well, they came there too, to stir up and incite the crowds. ¹⁴ Then the believers immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained behind. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

The Second Reading: Acts 17:16-34

Paul Preaches in Athens

L: The second reading is from Acts, the 17th chapter.

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹ So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an

unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, “We will hear you again about this.”³³ At that point Paul left them.³⁴ But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

The Third Reading: Psalm 66:16-20

L: The third reading is from Psalm 66.

¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

¹⁷ I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

²⁰ Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

SERMON:

Pastor Dave Efflandt

SPECIAL MUSIC

Thy Word

Words and Music by
Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

♩ = 70

CHORUS

F C/E F B \flat /D C F



Thy Word is a lamp un-to _ my feet and a light un - to my path.

5

C/E F B \flat /D C F



Thy Word is a lamp un-to _ my feet and a light un - to my path.

VERSE

9

C Gm Dm Am B \flat C



1. When I feel _ a - fraid, and I think I've lost _ my way, still You're there right be -
2. I will not _ for - get Your _ love for me, _ and yet my heart for - ev - er is

12

B \flat /F F C Gm Dm Am



-side _ me. Noth - ing will _ I fear as _ long as You _ are near.
wan - der - ing. Je - sus, be _ my guide and _ hold me to _ Your side;

15

B \flat C C/D D C^{SUS} C D.C. al Fine



Please be near me to the end. _____
I will love You to the end. _____

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GRADUATION MILESTONE

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: On this morning, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give. Amen.

A brief silence. The Leader continues.

We pray for the church throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For the spirit of resurrection within all believers. *A brief silence.*

For the newly baptized. *A brief silence.*

For the health of plants and animals. *A brief silence.*

For all who care for the earth. *A brief silence.*

For peace throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For an increase of justice in every land. *A brief silence.*

For those in need, those close to home, those far away. *A brief silence.*

For those who are hungry. *A brief silence.*

For the sick and the dying. *A brief silence.*

For our neighborhood. *A brief silence.*

For this assembly of worshipers. **(Any Special Petitions)** *A brief silence.*

For the desires of our hearts. *A brief silence.*

We give thanks for the lives of all the faithful who have died and who now enjoy the full presence of God. We pray that at the end we may join them in the resurrection.

A brief silence.

On this morning, O God, receive our prayers and praises, and give us your Spirit, that our lives may be signs of the new life you give through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship: Sunday at 9AM on the lawn; 10AM Zoom. Online available afternoon

→ Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays

Wednesday at 6:30 PM at SJK: Campfire Worship

Wednesday ONLINE worship: Campfire Worship at 7:15 PM

Bible Studies

Thursdays at 9:30 AM via Zoom: Women of Faith

Saturdays at 10 AM via Google Meets: "Lamentations"

BLESSING

L: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG:

Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and wĩnds the moun-tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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