

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

April 3, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1-3

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 2 (vss. 1,2,4,5)

O Worship the King

O worship the King all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;
Our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

Confession of Sin:

Need of Confession: Psalm 51:1-4

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin:

Unison: Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 51:7

¹⁰ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Song of Praise

Thy Mercy, My God, Is the Theme of My Song

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue.
Thy free grace alone from the first to the last
Hath won my affections and bound my soul fast.

Without thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But through thy free goodness my spirits revive
And he that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by thy goodness I fall to the ground
And weep for the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great father of mercies thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of thy crucified son;
All praise to the spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.
All praise to the spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

The Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he

shall come to judge the quick 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.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Chancel Choir, featuring Jewell Morrison, soprano

Living Hope

By Phil Wickham

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sermon Series: Romans: Gospel Partnership

Sermon Text: Romans 7:13-20 (ESV)

Sermon Title: Embracing the Struggle

¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

“For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.”

Can anyone relate to what Paul is confessing here? If so, you are not alone. For, this is the struggle we all face in the Christian life. Paul is continuing to teach the Roman church that, while the Law is not to blame, it is not adequate or sufficient to bring the transformation we all so desperately need. The problem is the depth of sin in the human heart.

And Paul, in the text we are exploring this morning, Romans 7:13-20, is teaching us to embrace the struggle. He is teaching us from two perspectives in this text.

- I. Do You Really Know Yourself?
- II. Do You Really Have the Music of the Gospel?

The purpose of knowing ourselves is not to beat ourselves up, but it is to learn to drink deeply from the well of Christ, to be tethered to Him, to abide in Him.

Reflection

“We are stumbling friends of Jesus – whom he loves anyway. We are the discarded scraps that somehow, in his deep and expansive grace, God uses to nurture and grow, to scatter and sprinkle over a broken world. We are stumbling friends of Jesus, but we are friends nonetheless.” (J.R. Briggs, quoted in Mike Khandjian, A Sometimes Stumbling Life).

The Lord’s Prayer / Pastoral 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 forever. Amen.

Hymn 535

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward
To the glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore;
How he loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore;
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
Died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to thee.

The Benediction

Postlude