

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION
The Lord's Day
July 17, 2022
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Men's Ensemble

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Call to Worship: Isaiah 55:1

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 115

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,

And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in one,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Confession of Sin

Need of Confession: Isaiah 55:2-3

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

Forgive us, O Lord, for everything that spoils our home life: for the moodiness and irritability that make us difficult to live with, for the insensitivity that makes us careless of the feelings of others, for the selfishness that makes life harder for others. Forgive us, O Lord, for everything that spoils our witness for you; that we so often deny with our lives what we say with our lips; for the difference between our creed and our conduct, our profession and our practice; for any example that makes it easier for people to criticize your church or for another to sin. Grant that at the foot of the cross we may find our burdens rolled away. And so strengthen us by your Spirit that in the days to come we may live more nearly as we ought. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen. (From the Worship Sourcebook)

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 55:6-7

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Song of Praise

How Great Is Our God

The splendor of the King,
Clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice,
All the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light,
And darkness tries to hide;
And trembles at his voice,
And trembles at his voice.

(Chorus)

How great is our God!
Sing with me,
“How great is our God!”
And all will see how great,
How great is our God!

And age to age he stands,
And time is in his hands;
Beginning and the End,
Beginning and the End.
The Godhead three in one,
Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb,
The Lion and the Lamb. (*Chorus*)

(*Bridge*)
Name above all names,
Worthy of all praise;
My heart will sing,
“How great is our God!”

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.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Chancel Choir

Come Into God's Embrace
By Mary McDonald

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: Why the Church?
Sermon Text: Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)
Sermon Title: Preparing for Mission

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed

by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

God has a mission. His mission is to bring comprehensive renewal to the earth. And God has a strategy for His mission. That strategy? The Church. His people, His bride is given the vocation of bringing healing, renewal, and peace to the places where God has called her. For us, that is here at Lake Oconee. That is what it means to be a missional church. And this morning we are going to be looking again at a foundational passage highlighting this strategy, Acts 1:1-11. And our particular focus will be on v.8.

Verse 8 provides both a strategy and an outline for the entire book of Acts. We will explore this verse today from three perspectives. Jesus is preparing His apostles (and us) for mission, and he explains how mission has a:

- I. Community Basis
- II. Spirit Empowerment
- III. Movement Mindset

Reflection

“God provides a means for us to appropriate the Spirit’s power in our lives and a means for non-Christians to be prepared to receive the Word. That means is prayer. It breaks down our self-sufficiency. It is our door of access to the Heavenly Father through which, as His adopted sons and daughters, we receive His grace to do His work.” (C. John Miller, Powerful Evangelism for the Powerless)

Hymn 498 (vss. 1-3)

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus! lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

(Chorus)

Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah, what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my vict'ry wins. *(Chorus)*

Jesus! what a help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul. (*Chorus*)

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn 498 (vss. 4-5)

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!
Jesus! what a guide and keeper!
While the tempest still is high,
Storms about me, night o'er-takes me,
He, my pilot, hears my cry.

(*Chorus*)
Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah, what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! I do now receive him,
More than all in him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am his, and he is mine. (*Chorus*)

The Benediction

Postlude

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