

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

August 14, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought

By William Bradbury, arranged by Mark Hayes

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:1-2

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 642 (vss. 1-2, 4-5)

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Confession of Sin

Song of Praise

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
He has done great things, we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;
He is the Lord, our God.
We are not consumed by the flood;
Upheld, protected, gathered up. (*chorus*)

In the dark of night, before the dawn,
My soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh, God of Jacob, be my strength. (*chorus*)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
Bind us together, bring shalom. (*chorus*)

The Lord's Prayer (unison) / 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: Mrs. Lynne Fowlkes, flute

How Beautiful

By Twila Paris, arranged by Joel Raney

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: Matthew 9:9-17 (ESV)

Sermon Title: Eating with Sinners

Pastor Jeff Birch

⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰ And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and

learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶ No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷ Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

We are exploring why Jesus came to earth, what His mission is, and why He has the church here in the world. And a key component of the text that we are exploring this morning is Jesus eating with sinners. Now we need to understand what this means in its original context.

We all love to share meals together. It is a sign of relationship, of mutual sharing. In the ancient world especially, meals meant much more than just a casual get together. It was an invitation to relationship. A sign of intimacy, fellowship, and communion.

In our passage this morning, Matthew 9:9-17 Jesus has a meal, a feast, but with people you wouldn't expect him to commune with. He is eating with tax collectors and sinners. What does this mean? What does this text teach us? We will explore it this morning by focusing on three words.

- I. Authority
- II. Surprise
- III. Newness

Reflection

"Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners? Because, while other religious leaders of the day saw their task as being to keep themselves in quarantine, away from possible sources of moral and spiritual infection, Jesus saw himself as a doctor who'd come to heal the sick. There's no point in a doctor staying in quarantine. He'll never do his job." (Tom Wright, Matthew for Everyone)

Hymn 252 (vss. 1-2)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn 252 (vss. 3-4)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down:
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

The Benediction

Postlude

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