

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION
The Lord's Day
September 12, 2021
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Miss Mary Strickland

Call to Worship: Romans 11:33-36

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 455 (vs. 1, 3, 4-5)**

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

(Chorus)

Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above
(So free, so infinite his grace!),
Humbled himself (so great his love!)
And bled for all his chosen race!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me! (Chorus)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee. (Chorus)

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own. (Chorus)

The Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism, 1 & 2

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Pastor: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

***Song of Praise**

They Mercy My God

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 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.

Offertory

***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 3:21-24 (ESV)
Sermon Title: Divine Intervention

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

One of my favorite biblical phrases is the phrase, “But now.” In Act One of Paul’s magnum opus, the letter to the Romans, the apostle highlights the bad news that the human condition is in trouble. Then, in v.21 we read the words, “But now.” “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law.” Thus begins Act 2. These words are intentional and are meant to be dramatic. The mood is changing and Paul wants you to feel it and embrace it.

Who will save the day? Divine intervention has taken place in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. What does divine intervention look like? This is the theme that we are introducing this morning and will be exploring over the next couple of weeks.

We will look at this theme from two perspectives:

- I. The Revelation of Divine Intervention
- II. The Result of Divine Intervention

May the Lord grip our hearts with the wondrous love and grace of this magnificent gospel.

Reflection:

“We can put it this way: the man who has faith is the man who is no longer looking at himself, and no longer looking to himself. He no longer looks at anything he once was. He does not look at what he is now. He does not [even] look at what he hopes to be as the result of his own efforts. He looks entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ and his finished work, and he rests on that alone. He has ceased to say, ‘Ah yes, I have committed terrible sins but I have done this and that...’ He stops saying that. If he goes on saying that, he has not got faith.... Faith speaks in an entirely different manner and makes a man say, ‘Yes, I have sinned grievously, I have lived a life of sin... yet I know that I am a child of God because I am not resting on any righteousness of my own; my righteousness is in Jesus Christ, and God has put that to my account.’” (D.M. Lloyd-Jones)

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Hymn 500 (new tune)

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

*The Benediction

Postlude: Mrs. Amy Reber

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