

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

September 25, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1-5

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 170

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and for evermore be thine.

Confession of Sin

Need of Confession: Psalm 69:5

O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

Father, we are sorry for the many times we have left you and chosen to satisfy our own selfish desires. For the times we have hurt the members of our families by refusing to do our share of the family tasks. Father, we have sinned. Forgive us. For the times we were too weak to stand up for what was right and allowed others to suffer because of our cowardice. Father, we have sinned. Forgive us. For the times we refused to forgive others. Father, we have sinned. Forgive us.

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 103:10-12

*He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those
who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions
from us.*

Song of Praise

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.

(Chorus)

My chains are gone, I've been set free,
My God my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed. *(Chorus)*

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures. *(Chorus)*

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine. *(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: Chancel Choir

Holy Is He / Holy, Holy, Holy

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?
Part Two: Jonah: Have You Missed the Heart of God?
Wrestling with God, Jonah 4:1-4 (ESV)
Pastor Jeff Birch

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ²And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

This is the sixth episode in the story of Jonah, and it parallels the third episode where Jonah prayed to the Lord from inside the belly of the fish. In Jonah 2:1 we read, “*Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish,*” and here in v.2 we read, “*And he prayed to the Lord.*”

This, being Jonah’s second prayer, this repetition is the author’s way of inviting us to compare the two. While Jonah’s first prayer was filled with thanksgiving for God’s grace and salvation, Jonah’s second prayer exposes Jonah’s self-centeredness and hypocrisy. As such it teaches us how much remaining sin there still is in believers. Jonah is back at square one.

Have you ever felt that way? That you are back at square one in your relationship with God? In your walk with God? We don’t have a record here like we did in Jonah’s first prayer of Jonah repenting, but we do know that repentance begins with admitting something is wrong.

Wrestling with God begins with or by being brutally honest with yourself and with God. And you will not experience the love of God without wrestling with God, without this kind of brutal honesty. Unless you are brutally honest about your condition, you won’t experience the electrifying love of God. Or God’s love will remain placid at best to you. It won’t energize; it won’t electrify; it won’t transform.

The passage before us is a wrestling match between Jonah and God. As the story continues to unfold it is simple to understand. We saw God extend amazing love to Jonah which filled him with thanksgiving. But when this same love was extended to the Ninevites, Jonah recoiled with anger. We will look at this passage, Jonah 4:1-4 from two perspectives:

- I. Jonah’s Condition
- II. God’s Response to Jonah

Reflection

“The reason for looking inside is not to effect direct change of negative emotions to positive emotions. Instead, we are to listen to and ponder what we feel in order to be moved to the far

deeper issue of what our hearts are doing with God and others.” (Dan Allender and Tremper Longman, The Cry of the Soul: How Our Emotions Reveal Our Deepest Questions About God)

Hymn 441

Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stertch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown him head.
His name like sweet perfume shall
Rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King,
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

The Benediction

Postlude

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