

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MARCH 29, 2020
5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

PRELUDE/MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

"Meditation on Songs of the Cross"

Cheryl Mayhew, organist
Robert J. Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)

Let us worship God, who has done great things. We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world. Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland. We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice! Let us worship God in spirit and in truth. We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

OPENING HYMN *"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 heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

In the light of your love our failings are illuminated;

our failure to give

our failure to love

our failure to follow

our failure to serve

our failure to be the people you would have us be.

Forgive us and renew us. You know our nature and know our failings

Enfold us in your arms that we might daily know your forgiveness and healing love.

Amen!

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Psalm 103:8-12)

L: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever. He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION *"Surely the Presence"*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face; Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

MESSAGE

"Essentials in These Days of Corona Virus"

Pastor Eric Gale

Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 4:7

CLOSING HYMN *"Because He Lives"*

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus; He came to love, heal and forgive. He lived and died to buy my pardon; An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

[CHORUS] Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby, And feel the pride and joy He gives; But greater still the calm assurance: This child can face uncertain days, because He lives.

[CHORUS]

And then one day, I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain. And then, as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

[CHORUS]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Robert J. Hughes

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 8 (NIV)

¹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens. ² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

SERMON OUTLINE

What makes you and me essential at this time and in this world...even during these days of Corona Virus and social distancing?

I. God has a valuable _____ that needs to be delivered to save lives!

A. The _____ of the human messenger!

1. You and I are the clay pots that carry the valuable treasure called the _____.

B. We carry a _____ message!

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

1. God has made a business out of _____ weak, sinful, and sometimes foolish people to confound the so-called strong and wise of the world.

2. Your essential value has nothing to do with what you _____, what you _____, or being in a high and prestigious _____.

3. Your essential value comes from God because you are created in _____.