

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 19, 2017

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Acts 17:24-25

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 45 (p. 802)

Hymn of Preparation*

“The God of Abraham Praise” Hymn 34

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God and Heavenly Father, we pray to you in sorrow and frustration as we consider how we have sinned against you.

All: We know from your Word what is right, and yet we did wrong anyway. We have acted wickedly by turning aside from your commandments and seeking our own ways.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Grant that our hearts might be filled again with joy and peace as we hear your assurance of forgiveness.

All: All glory be to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:22-25

Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 22:1-19

Congregational Response

“God the All-Terrible!” Hymn 711

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 7. *What are the decrees of God?*

A. The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, by which, for his own glory, he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Q. 8. *How does God execute his decrees?*

A. God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Q. 9. *What is the work of creation?*

A. The work of creation is God’s making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology*

Hymn 731

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.

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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Galatians 3

Congregational Response (based on Psalm 36:5-10) “Thy Mercy and Thy Truth” Hymn 60

Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 5:9)

Sermon “A Sure and Steadfast Anchor of the Soul” Pastor Ben Muresan
Hebrews 6:13-20

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving* “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” Hymn 521

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response* (Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit, be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

LORD’S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

We live in a time in which many people feel uncertain and hopeless. A professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School recently called the cultural crisis in which we are living “The Age of Despair.” And yet this is not all that new. Reading through Ecclesiastes quickly reveals that a sense of despair among the godless has been common for ages. This is why the writer of Hebrews encourages us by grounding our hope on one who is eternal and will not change—on God himself. The Puritan Samuel Rutherford said: “Our hope is not hung upon such an untwisted thread as, ‘I imagine so,’ or ‘It is likely’; but the cable, the strong rope of our fastened anchor, is the oath and promise of him who is eternal truth. Our salvation is fastened with God’s own hand, and Christ’s own strength, to the strong stake of God’s unchangeable nature.”

Questions:

1. For review, read Hebrews 6:4-12. How would you explain to a non-Reformed Christian that this passage (specifically verses 4-6) does not describe the possibility of a regenerate Christian falling from grace? What other passages in Scripture would you use to help your explanation?
2. Read Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-6; 17:1-8; 15-22; 21:1-5; and consider our reading from Genesis 22:1-19 this morning. What do you learn from Abraham’s life about patiently waiting for what God has promised?
3. Read Hebrews 6:16-18. Why did God swear an oath to Abraham? Read Psalm 89:34-37; 95:10-11; and, Isaiah 14:24-27. Did God honor these oaths?
4. Is God changeless? How does this encourage you as you read his Word?
5. Read Hebrews 6:19. Why does the author use the image of an anchor to describe our hope? What does it mean that Jesus has gone before us as our “forerunner” (v. 20)?
6. Read Hebrews 7:1-10 in preparation for next Sunday. What do you know about Melchizedek? Why do you think it is significant that Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek and that Melchizedek blessed Abraham?