
Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church

Service of Worship¹

Sunday, December 28, 2008

** Please stand if you are able.*

Prelude

Greetings & Life of the Church

Meditation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ...

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
-- John 1:1-5, 14

God Gathers His People ...

And [Simeon] came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,
‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.’
-- Luke 2:27-32

God's People Join their Voices with Simeon in Praise ...

**Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*

#195

¹“Worship” is not something that WE initiate; not primarily something that WE do for GOD; rather, God calls us to worship as a means of His grace by which to shape and tune US to declare and display HIS glory in Christ for HIS pleasure and our good.

*Invocation & Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in 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.

Amen²

God Tunes the Heart of His People ...

... through Corporate Confession of Sin...

Psalm 51

#486

...through Assurance of Pardon...

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. Titus 3:4-8

... resulting in Praise to our God through Christ our Lord

**Wonderful Merciful Savior*

#Insert

²“Amen” grows from the Hebrew root meaning “true and faithful;” we pray with hope and confidence because our covenant God is “true and faithful” to his covenant promises.

... God Teaches His People...

Scripture Reading

Acts 13:44-52

Message

Failure: God's Path to Greater Usefulness

God's People Respond to His Word by Faith...

**... with hymns ...*

#200

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

... prayer ...

Prayers of the People

** ... praise ...*

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise him, all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

... and Tithes and Offerings of Thanksgiving ...

... Committing our Resources to Him

God Sends His People ...

** ... with Rejoicing*

Hark the Herald Angels Sing, #203

** ... and the Benediction³ of His Grace*

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace so that all the peoples may say,

Congregation: "Amen! Our LORD is faithful!" Praise the LORD.

³“Benediction” is the “good Word” of God’s blessing by which He secures, sustains and equips his people by his steadfast, covenantal love in Christ for the display of His glory

For Individual & Family Worship
Week of December 28, 2008 – January 3, 2009

As we systematically read through the Bible together following this plan, we will gain an appreciation for God's story of Glory, Grace and Truth displayed through the ages among and through his people. It is a story filled with intrigue, deception, colossal failures and even greater stories of redemption. Once this becomes a part of our normal routine, we will be amazed how these stories come to mind in the face of daily life challenges.

| Scripture Reading: | Morning | Evening |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Sunday: | | Jn 1 |
| Monday: | Gn 1-2, Ps 1, Mt 1 | Jn 2 |
| Tuesday: | Gn 3, Ps 2, Mt 2 | Jn 3 |
| Wednesday: | Gn 4, Ps 3, Mt 3 | Jn 4 |
| Thursday: | Gn 5, Ps 4, Mt 4 | Jn 5 |
| Friday: | Gn 6, Ps 5&6, Mt 5:1-20 | Jn 6 |
| Saturday: | Gn 7&8, Ps 7, Mt 5:21-48 | Jn 7 |

Similarly, as we participate in the hymns and prayers of God's people in Christ from throughout history, we will gain an appreciation for the continuing, present unfolding of God's story of Glory and Grace in Jesus among his people by his Spirit.

Hymn: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (Trinity, #200)*

1. It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King"; the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden house come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.
4. For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the evercircling years comes round the age of gold; when peace shall o'er all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the son which now the angels sing.

Prayer in Fellowship with the Church:

Make us glad, O God, in recounting your mercies and adoring your holiness, and let it be our chief joy to glorify your holy name. Almighty and everlasting God, the brightness of faithful souls, who brought the Gentiles to your light and made known to them him who is the true Light, and the bright and morning Star: fill, we ask you, the world with your glory, and show yourself by the radiance of your light to all nations. Amen.

-- The Gregorian Sacramentary

Sermon Notes

Passage: Acts 13:44-52

Message: Failure: God's Path to Greater Usefulness

Many things in life do not turn out the way I planned. But a sovereign God is behind them all. An all wise and all loving God uses our failures and letdowns to make clearer my mission in life. How does He do this?

God uses our failures ...

... to clarify our calling

... to clarify our priorities

... to clarify our message

Each event in life, even the disappointing ones, are all a part of God's master Plan for us. They are ALL used by God in specific and personal ways to bring us to the place in life He wants us to be.

CVPC CONTACT INFORMATION

... if the Body of Christ @ CVPC may be praying for or otherwise serving you, please call ...

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Welcome to

**CHATTANOOGA VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(PCA)**

By God's Grace, For God's Glory

... to see Chattanooga Valley and the Nations
overwhelmed by the glory of God and transformed by the grace and
peace of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ
working in His people empowered by His Spirit for His glory.

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