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Grace Falls Church

June 20, 2021

HUMBLE THYSELF: CONFESSION OF SINS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

WL: Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord

C: Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord

WL: Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord

C: Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord

WL: And He..... Will Lift

C: And He..... Will Lift

ALL: You up-- higher and higher

WL: And He..... Will Lift

C: And He..... Will Lift

ALL: You up.

WL: After Adam and Eve ate of the fruit God commanded them not to eat, they tried to hide from God. But what did God do? God went after them. God went after them not to condemn, punish, or destroy them. Rather, God pursued Adam and Eve so that he could restore a good relationship with them. Our first lesson:

FIRST LESSON	Genesis 3:8-9
Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the	Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

WL: God calls also to us. He wants us to confess our sins, to believe in Jesus, and to know full and free forgiveness. Today, we will confess in word and in song.

WL: Pray together in the sight of the Lord

C: Pray together in the sight of the Lord

WL: Pray together in the sight of the Lord

C: Pray together in the sight of the Lord

WL: And He.....Will Lift

C: And He.....Will Lift

ALL: You up-- higher and higher

WL: And He.....Will Lift

C: And He.....Will Lift

ALL: You up.

C: Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you in more ways than I can count. I have sinned in my thoughts, by my words and with my actions. There are sins I know I have done and sins that I do not know I have done. Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Call me from the darkness into your wonderful light. Assure me of your love for me, cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

WL: God is love; the one who abides in love abides in him and God abides in them. By this perfect love—perfected through the perfect life and innocent death of Christ Jesus—every sin has been washed away. You are righteous in God’s sight. The God of hope fill you with the peace and joy that comes only through his forgiveness. May his love drive out all fear and doubt, and overflow as you pour out that love on others and live your life in worship of the author and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

WL: Sing together in the sight of the Lord

C: Sing together in the sight of the Lord

WL: Sing together in the sight of the Lord

C: Sing together in the sight of the Lord

WL: And He.....Will Lift

C: And He.....Will Lift

ALL: You up-- higher and higher

WL: And He.....Will Lift

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WL: Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 17:16-32

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.

¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?"

Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods."

They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him,

"May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"

²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean."

²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said:

"People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.

²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.

²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

²⁶ "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit

the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

³² When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

“HOW DEEP THE FATHER’S LOVE FOR US”

[Verse 1]

How deep the Father’s love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son
to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
the Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

[Verse 2]

Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held him there
until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

[Verse 3]

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.

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THE GOD WHO SEEKS THE LOST

Message based on Luke 15

LUKE 15

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger

one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

PRAYER

Vicar David will offer the Prayer. *Following the Prayer:*

All: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

“LIVING HOPE”

[Verse 1]

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness
Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

[Verse 2]

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such
boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

[Chorus] x2

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

[Verse 3] x2

Then came the morning
that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me

2nd time:

Jesus, yours is the victory!

[Chorus]x2

Jesus Christ, my living hope
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSING

WANT TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE MUSIC?

This playlist contains nearly every one of the songs that we use for contemporary worship over the year:

**Also, feel free to send song suggestions or recommendations to Staff Minister Kyle Heise. 😊*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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