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September 20, 2020

WELCOME

“WHITE AS SNOW”

[Verse 1] x2

Have mercy on me, oh God,
According to Your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion,
Blot out my transgressions.

[Chorus] x2

Would You cre--ate in me
A clean heart, Oh God;
Resto--re in me,
The joy of Your salvation.

[Verse 2] x2

The sacrifices of our God
Are a broken and contrite heart.
Against you and you alone have I sinned.

[Chorus] x2

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CONFESSION OF SINS

Worship Leader: Jesus said, “If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell” (*Matthew 5:29,30*).

When we think about our focus for today, it may seem the easy or wise choice is to not be “our brother or sister’s keeper.” Jesus’ words were not directed only to people as individuals, but also to people who are part of the body of believers—the Church. God inspired Paul to say this:

*“Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (*Romans 14:13-17*).*

So for all the times we have spoken harshly to those around us instead of speaking in the truth in love, for all the times we have said nothing, and for all the times we have not shown the love that was shown to us, we confess our sins and ask the Lord to remind us of his unconditional forgiveness.

Congregation: Lord, there have been times I have chosen my own ways over your ways. Following my own way, I have sinned by the choices I have made, sometimes knowingly and sometimes unknowingly. Sins of thought, sins of word and sins of action. Lord, I pray that you have mercy on me. Not because I have earned it or deserve it, but because of your unfailing love and your Son Jesus. Assure me of the forgiveness of my sin and take away my guilt.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

WL: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. And this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. He died to remove your guilt and sin forever. He died and does not remember your sins. He died so that you never will. Go in peace; your sins are forgiven. Amen.

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.

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 33:7-11

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.

⁸ “When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood.

⁹ “But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

¹⁰ “Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?” ’

¹¹ “Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’”

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:1-10

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong.

Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.

⁴ For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing.

⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments,

*“You shall not commit adultery,”
“You shall not murder,”
“You shall not steal,”
“You shall not covet,”*

and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

"HERE'S MY HEART"

[Chorus 1] x2

Here's my heart, Lord
Here's my heart, Lord
Here's my heart, Lord
Speak what is true

[Verse 1]

Cause I am found,
I am Yours
I am loved, I'm made pure
I have life, I can breathe
I am healed, I am free

[Chorus 1]

[Verse 1]

[Verse 2]

Cause You are strong,
You are sure
You are life, You endure
You are good, always true
You are light breaking through

[Chorus 1]

[Chorus 2]

Here's my life, Lord
Here's my life, Lord
Here's my life, Lord
Speak what is true
Speak what is true

[Bridge]

You are more than enough
You are here, You are love
You are hope, You are grace
You're all I have,
You're everything

[Chorus 1]

[Chorus 2]

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MESSAGE:

AM I MY BROTHER OR SISTER'S KEEPER?

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

The first person we know to have asked that question was Cain, Adam's firstborn son.

Cain was opposed to the idea that he was responsible for his brother's wellbeing.

Cain is certainly not the last person to have asked this question.

*We may wonder if it's our responsibility, outside of our families,
to get involved in another believer's spiritual wellbeing.*

Jesus addresses this matter in today's lesson from Matthew 18.

MATTHEW 18:15-20

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

PRAYER

Pastor Kevin 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.

"MY LIGHTHOUSE"

[Verse 1]

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

[Verse 2]

In the silence, You won't let go
In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

[Chorus]

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness.
I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me--

Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

[Verse 3]

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

[Chorus]

[Bridge x4]

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms.

[Chorus]

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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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