

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Reflections

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

- Romans 12:1

A true prayer is an inventory of needs, a catalog of necessities, an exposure of secret wounds, a revelation of hidden poverty. - C. H. Spurgeon

Sunday Worship Service Participants

March 7

Greeter - Paula Townsend

Childcare Workers - Laura Sterrett and Steve Eng

Scripture Reading - Karen Thorp

March 14

Greeter - Elizabeth Demeusy

Childcare Workers - Denise Kingsley and Linda Mason

Scripture Reading - Laura Sterrett

March 21

Greeter - Linda Mason

Childcare Workers - Michael Sterrett and April Claggett

Scripture Reading - Matt Oquist

Service of Praise

Prelude

We invite you to prepare your heart for the worship of our God.

***Call to Worship**

1 Timothy 6:15b-16

God is the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Number 38 in Trinity Hymnal

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Hymn of Praise**

O Great God
See page 4

**Congregation standing*

Call to Renewal

Confession of Sin

Eternal God, in every age
you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith.
Forgive our indifference to your will.
You have commanded us to speak, but we have been silent.
You have called us to do what is just, but we have been fearful.
Have mercy on us, your faithless servants.
Keep before us faithful people for us to follow
so that, living with courage and love,
we may inherit the kingdom promised in Jesus Christ,
and reign with him forever. Amen.

Worship Sourcebook (Reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, © 2004, CRC Publications.)

A Moment of Private Confession

Assurance of Pardon

John 5:24

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

* +Hymn of Thanks

In Christ Alone

See page 6

**Congregation standing*

+Young children may be dismissed at this time.

Verse 3

Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed
O great God of highest heaven
Glorify Your Name through me

You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed
O great God of highest heaven
Glorify Your Name through me

Call to Commitment

Collection of Our Gifts to God and to His Church

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Scripture Reading

Luke 13:1-9 (ESV)

¹There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

⁶And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Prayer of Intercession

Sermon

Lying to Abimelech: The Blunders Continue
Genesis 20

¹From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. ²And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ³But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." ⁴Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people? ⁵Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." ⁶Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

⁸So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. ⁹Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done." ¹⁰And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you see, that you did this thing?" ¹¹Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. ¹²Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. ¹³And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, He is my brother.'"

¹⁴Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him. ¹⁵And Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you." ¹⁶To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated." ¹⁷Then Abraham

prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. ¹⁸For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Sermon Outline

Biblical Text

Comparison to Genesis 12

Application

Grace to Abimelech

Lev. 19:34, Mt 5:44, Rom. 15:2

Rodney Stark's The Rise of Christianity

Grace to Abraham

God is faithful when we are not.

***Hymn of Response**

All You That Fear Jehovah's Name
Number 9 in Trinity Hymnal

**Congregation standing*

Service of Communion

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion, also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, it is important that you carefully consider the claims of the gospel and the grace that is offered through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We encourage you to talk with an elder of the church and spend this time now in prayer and meditation on the scriptures in the bulletin.

Scripture Verses for Those Not Communing

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

- Isaiah 53:4-6

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

- John 3:16-18

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

- John 14:6

Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:6-8, 22-23

***Confession of Faith**

The Heidelberg Catechism

Question 1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

***Song of Benediction**

Fairest, Lord Jesus (verse 4)

Number 170 in Trinity Hymnal

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine.

***Benediction**

Announcements

(Please be seated)

**Congregation standing*

Announcements*

There will be a **church luncheon** after the service next Sunday, March 14. Please sign up to bring something to share.

Weekly Schedule:

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Prayer	Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	4 p.m.	Alpha Marriage Course	Eng Home
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Small Group	Claggett Home
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Small Group	Brooks Home

Budget Information:

Nine Months Data June 2009 through February 2010:

Regular Giving	\$53,818.10
<i>(excl. Mercy Fund, Building Fund and Memorials)</i>	
Fund Raising	\$7,280.00
Total Giving (Income)	\$61,098.10
Actual Expenses (excl. Mercy Fund)	\$66,311.04
Budget	\$74,270.57
Shortfall to Expense (Income - Expense)	(\$5,212.94)
Shortfall to Budget (Income - Budget)	(\$13,172.47)

*If you have any announcements, please contact the Oquists.
Phone: 603-881-3808, Email: announcements@nashuapca.org

