

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, June 13th, 2021
Worship Leader: Rev. John McIntyre

Welcome

Call to Worship (Isa 55:1-2; 6-7)

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come; buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Prayer of Invocation

Our Father and our God, as we come into your presence with the inspired words of the prophet Isaiah echoing in our minds, we thank you for the open invitation to come to you in order to freely receive that which will quench the deepest longings of our souls and refresh our lives. We come reminded of the words of our Lord Jesus who likewise cries out, *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."* And so we come before you acknowledging our need of and desire for, the living water that only you can give. Slake our thirst by your word and Spirit we pray, that you might be glorified in our worship and that we might be built up in our faith hope and love. This we ask in our Saviour's name. **Amen.**

Hymn: **"All Hail The Power of Jesus Name"** (Tune: Diadem)
 (Click on the link below to play the hymn. The lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WVSyGBBfi8>

All hail the power of Jesus' name
 Let angels prostrate fall
 Let angels prostrate fall
 Bring forth the royal diadem
 And crown Him crown Him crown Him
 Crown Him Lord of all

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race
 Ye ransomed of the fall
 Ye ransomed of the fall
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace
 And crown Him crown Him crown Him
 Crown Him Lord of all

Let every kindred, ev'ry tribe
 On this terrestrial ball
 On this terrestrial ball
 To him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him crown Him crown Him
 Crown Him Lord of all

O that with yonder sacred throng
 We at his feet may fall
 We at his feet may fall
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him crown Him crown Him
 Crown Him Lord of all

Call to Confession (Psa 32:1-5)

Rom 4: [7-8](#) "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

Let us now come in contrition before the Lord our God and Saviour, for his word assures us that he will abundantly pardon.

Prayer of Confession

Our gracious Heavenly Father, the one before whom nothing is hid, we acknowledge our fallenness and our failings. We have all sinned and fallen short of your glory. We have each turned from your word and your will and chased after our own errant ways in thought, word and deed. We have not lived up to our calling as your chosen, redeemed and adopted children. And so in sorrow for our sins, we again we ask for your pardon and forgiveness knowing that although we are most often faithless you are always faithful. We thank you for providing us with a Saviour whose shed blood cleanses us from all sin. We look forward to that promised day when we shall be free of our sin and our inclination toward it when by your grace, we behold our Lord Jesus face to face in the new heavens and new earth that he will usher in at his sure return. Hear our prayer for Jesus' name sake. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

When Jesus explained the implications of the New Covenant in (Mt 26: [28](#)) he said, *“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”* All who rest in Christ and his finished work on the cross have the assurance of the forgiveness of their sins. Let us therefore receive it and press on in faith for he who promised is faithful.

The 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 the Evil One.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen**

Responsive Reading:

Psa 40

I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me!

Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt!

Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

Hymn: "Refiner's Fire", Brian Doerksen

(Click on the link below to play the video. Lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y8zP34AhuU&feature=youtu.be>

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Purify my heart | 2. Purify my heart |
| Let me be as gold | Cleanse me from within |
| And precious silver | And make me holy |
| Purify my heart | Purify my heart |
| Let me be as gold | Cleanse me from my sin |
| Pure gold | Deep within |

Chorus

Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will

Scripture Reading: I Cor 15:1-11

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **2** and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. **9** For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not

I, but the grace of God that is with me. [11](#) Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Prayer for Illumination

Father, what we know not, teach us. What we have not, give us. What we are not, kindly make us. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Christ's Suffering & Death: Vicarious

(I Cor 15:3)

Text (I Cor 15: [3](#)), *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,"*

Today we consider another aspect of Christ's work of redemption: Christ's suffering and death was **Vicarious**.

I wonder if very many reading these words remember what they were doing on Feb. 28, 2010? On that Sunday afternoon an event occurred that reverberated across Canada. It was the day that the Canadian Hockey Team was victorious in winning the Olympic Gold Medal when Sydney Crosby scored his "Golden Goal" to defeat Team USA. Estimates suggested that 26.5 million Canadians watched some part of the game, meaning 80% of the country tuned in at some point. Two-thirds of the country, or 22 million people, were watching when Sydney Crosby scored the winning goal. It was the largest TV audience in Canadian history. The Prime Minister stated that the Team Canada victory "brought Canadians together." Many agreed with his assessment. There were celebrations all across Canada as people took to the streets whooping it up. In the days that followed we all basked in the glow of the team's decisive win.

Why was that? Well, for many it was out of a sense of revenge – The Americans beat us at Nagano in '98. For others it was vindication of Canada's reputation – Hockey's birthplace is Canada. But I think people were ecstatic because "we" had won. Team Canada was playing on our behalf. The team represented us. When the team won – you and I won. We couldn't go – so we sent our best – and they played in our place. And so our team's triumph was a "vicarious" victory for us all and as they say, Canada won gold!

On the Sunday in April that I was with you, we considered the voluntary nature of Christ's suffering & death in redemption. Today we will reflect on the vicarious nature of His suffering & death.

By way of review, we have seen that the gospel presupposes, that God is holy and that all have sinned. And that our sinful condition exposes us to God's righteous wrath against both sin and sinner. That's the bad news. Because we have all sinned, we deserve to be expelled from the presence of God. We deserve the penalty of His wrath.

At this desperate point, the gospel presents us with good news of God's grace.

God has provided us with a way out of this dilemma – by way of Redemption. Before creation His gracious plan of redemption was already in place. Within that plan, God the Son volunteered to enter the realm of sin, suffering and death, "To put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb. 10: [26](#)). And so we say that Christ's work on behalf of lost sinners was voluntary. But the suffering and death of our Lord was not only voluntary, it was also vicarious.

What does the word "vicarious" mean? It means taking the place of another thing or person: substitute or deputy. It can be used to describe a "shared participation in another's experience." It can refer to a function abnormally performed by something other than the usual. The main idea however is that of "substitution" in place of another.

Eph 5: [2](#) tells us, "Christ gave Himself up for us, as an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." This is where the "vicarious" nature of His suffering & death comes in. James Denny has written, "The work of Christ in relation to sin is the great thing of the gospel." The reason it is the great thing of the gospel is because of what our text teaches. (I Cor. 15: [3](#)) "...*Christ died for our sins...*" One writer states that, when we consider this aspect of Christ's suffering and death, "We become aware of the fact that "**for**" is the most significant preposition of the gospel." "Christ died **for** our sins."

The vicarious nature of Christ's suffering and death is portrayed for us in the Old Testament. Leviticus in particular lays out the meticulous preparations that were required for a priest to appear before God in the holy place. Why? – Because God is holy. Only one specially designated man/priest was entitled and granted entry to appear before God when he appeared on behalf of the people and only then, when washed and clothed in holy garments.

God is holy. His wrath against sin in His covenant people must be appeased. For the sins of the priest & his household, the sacrifice of a bull and a ram was required. For the sins of the people & its contamination of the tabernacle, the sacrifice of two goats and a ram was obligatory. One goat was to be sacrificed for

the sins of the people. The other – the scapegoat – was sent into the wilderness bearing the sins of the people.

It was called the Day of Atonement – the day God in His grace, demonstrated redemption. It was a day of reconciliation when the people were made right with God. (Lev 16: [30](#)) states that *“It is the day that atonement shall be made for you (note it was made for them) to cleanse you; you shall be clean from all your sins before the Lord.”* It was to be repeated every year as a permanent statute in Israel.

The New Testament calls attention to the fact that these roles, rituals and sacrifices were given until such time as the vicarious value pictured in them would be fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. (Heb. 7: [27](#)) tells us that Jesus *“...has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people...”* Why not? Because He is God’s spotless/sinless Lamb who provided forgiveness for sins, *“once for all when he offered up himself.”*

“Through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (Heb. 9: [12](#)). And so there is no longer any offering for sin. For by His own blood, Jesus inaugurated a new and living way *for us* (to approach God) through the veil, that is, His flesh. (Heb. 10: [18-20](#))

Jesus our eternal high priest is the once and for all offering for sin in our place and on our behalf. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is the incarnate God who is with us and for us! Scripture teaches us that God is for us – how do we know? We know because he did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all (Rom 8: [31-32](#)).

The Prophets speak of the vicarious nature of Christ’s suffering and death. In Isa. 53: [4-8](#) we read of him bearing our griefs and carrying our sorrows. It tells us that he was pierced through for our transgressions and was crushed for our iniquities. The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him. Indeed, the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was cut off out of the land of the living – for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due.

What Jesus did – He did for others. Christ’s humanity is a vicarious humanity. Jesus was and is fully human, bone of our bone and flesh our flesh. He lived in solidarity with the human race. Yes, he is God as it says in Php 2: [6-8](#) but he, *“did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* By fully taking on human-ness, he has embraced every one of us with his love. What he was in himself as a particular human being, he was on behalf of every human being. All that He is in His humanity is vicariously attributed to all who place their faith in Him.

What does this mean for the believer? It means that when we are united to Christ by faith, we participate in His humanity in all its sinless obedience and in its outreaching love and perfect communion with God. It means that Christ takes what is ours and gives us what is His. In this "wonderful exchange," Christ assumes our place and gives us his place. He takes to himself our sin, our brokenness, our anxiety, our alienation from the Father and our sentence of condemnation. In return, he gives to us His righteousness, His wholeness, His peace, His oneness with the Father, and His declaration of eternal life.

In all this our sinful human-ness is set aside and vicariously replaced with the perfect human-ness of Christ. In other words, *One – on behalf of the many*. Christ has taken the sinful human condition to the cross, He has died with it and then been raised in new life – the life of a restored humanity. Having ascended to the right hand of God the Father, He now stands in for us there. In His glorified life in heaven – still human and still God incarnate, he continues to take our feeble prayers and make them his own. He continues in this work for the humanity of Christ continues. Like His oneness with His Father, Jesus Christ's oneness with our humanity is as James Torrance says, "A final reality enduring endlessly into eternity."

What Jesus did – He did *for* others. The gospel is an exclusive and glorious message to all people as found in I Cor. 15:3, "**Christ died for our sins.**" It is the good news that in Jesus, our humanity has been gathered up, redeemed, and restored. This is the greatest news the world has ever received. This is the good news of the gospel we are called to proclaim.

Imagine if someone found a cure for a terribly debilitating disease, an illness, which prior to the newfound cure, could only have its symptoms managed, not its root cause cured. Once this wonderful cure became available, it would diminish the place of all the other symptom controllers. In fact, people might lose jobs and companies even go out of business. The cure would make mere salves unnecessary. Of course, those who had made their living through the old medicines might protest. And those comfortable with the old ways of managing the pain might resist the change. But all of this would pale in comparison to the new reality: the disease has been cured! And imagine further if this wonderful treatment could be made available to all people worldwide without discrimination. The exclusive nature of the cure would be an all-inclusive joy for humanity.

This illustration is a shadow of the triumphant news of the gospel. Jesus Christ who is God – Has taken hold of our humanity. His human suffering and death was offered for our sins and in our place. By His suffering and death, he has restored us and reconciled us to God. He has blessed us with "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."

“Christ died for our sins.” This is the starting point from which the rest of the life of the church unfolds. Christ’s suffering and death is vicarious. He has won much more than a fading Olympic gold medal; He has won eternal life for all who acknowledge him as their Lord and Saviour. He has taken hold of our humanity in his own body. He has been condemned and suffered and died as a sinner *for you* and your sins. Christ is dead for you, that you might live for him and with him for all eternity. Have you by faith taken this truth to yourself? Are you living in the grace and power of that reality? I trust we are.

Hymn: “The Power of the Cross”, Keith and Kristyn Getty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uS7fc7VTJZs>

1. Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood

Chorus

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

2. Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow

Chorus

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

3. Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the vict'ry cry

Chorus

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

4. Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through Your suff'ring I am free
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love

Chorus 2

This the pow'r of the cross
 Son of God slain for us
 What a love what a cost
 We stand forgiven at the cross

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) **We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer.** This note from our treasurer.

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspertthoffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Invitation to Offering (II Cor 8:9)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. We have been enriched more than words can say in and through our Lord Jesus. Let us then with grateful hearts present our offerings to him from the abundance of the graces that he has entrusted us with.

Offertory Prayer

O Lord our Saviour, giver of life and source of all good things, we know that all we have received is from your hand. You call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives, for his name's sake. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Our loving God and heavenly Father, we have been considering your great work of salvation accomplished in the person of your dear son our Lord Jesus Christ and we praise you for the love that drew salvation's plan and for your wondrous grace that conveyed it to sinful mankind. Were we to contemplate the perfections that are inherent in your divine being, it would consume all our

waking hours and then some. At present we can but partially imagine the glory that belongs to you. And yet by your grace through faith in Jesus Christ we look forward to that moment when we see our Saviour, not through eyes of faith, but face to face in his glorious presence.

We are grateful that you invite us to come to you in our Lord's name and by his blood that we might lay our petitions and concerns before you. As we do, we are reminded that you are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to your power that is at work within us. And so we come counting on the intercession of the Holy Spirit within us and of our Saviour at you right hand.

We pray for those in governing positions throughout our nation asking that they be illuminated by your wisdom as they seek to govern the affairs of these times. Forgive us for our errant ways as a nation and people. May it please you to lead us all in paths of righteousness that it may go well for our nation and that peace and prosperity might be maintained.

We pray for those who are at the forefront in ministering to those who are subject to the perils of the Covid 19 pandemic. Strengthen and encourage all who are weary and cast down because of this affliction. And may the adverse circumstances in which many find themselves be a means of turning to you and your sufficiency.

We pray for the church of Christ in our land. Where there is error and laxity, we pray for the establishment truth and loving zeal. We pray that by your word and Spirit we would gain a heightened love for you and an urgency in our efforts to see people turn to Christ in saving faith.

We commend the persecuted church throughout the world to you. Many suffer for the sake of the gospel. In their afflictions may they sense that you are their keeper and protector and that even as Jesus suffered even to the conquering of death, they too are more than conquerors through Christ who loves them?

We pray for this congregation asking for your ongoing leading and provision for these your people. Give those who lead a rightful sense of your calling and a willingness to follow you and your word. Grant that those who are under their authority a compliant spirit and supportive encouragement. Some members of the congregation are enduring adversity. We pray for those who are unable to be out and about and are perhaps lonely asking that you comfort and uphold them. Some are sick and need your healing touch and so we ask that you grant healing and restoration to them. Others are perhaps suffering from illnesses from which they will not recover. Be pleased, we pray, to comfort them with your sure promise to accompany them through the valley they may be facing. Still others are perhaps grieving over the passing of a

loved one and so we ask that you comfort and uphold those who are bereaved. In all the afflictions that come our way Father, let no one be moved by them. But let us all hold on to the truth that although the righteous may experience many afflictions, *“the LORD delivers him out of them all.”*

There are other matters pertaining to us all that may be unknown to us but they are known to you. We pray that you will provide that which we most need and will glorify you. We thank you for your faithfulness and for your mercies that are new every morning, entrusting ourselves and our loved ones to you, In Jesus name, **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QISk0oYYpuk>

I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God set the stars to give light to the world
The star of my life is Jesus

Chorus

In Him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart Lord Jesus

I want to see the brightness of God
I want to look at Jesus
Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father

I'm looking for the coming of Christ
I want to be with Jesus
When we have run with patience the race
We shall know the joy of Jesus

Benediction

And now to God's chosen, whom he has upheld since conception,
And carried since birth,
Hear his good promise - I am he; I will sustain you, I will carry you, I will rescue even to your old age. **Amen.**