St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth July 11th, 2021 Worship Leader: Rev. John McIntyre

"In person" worship has resumed!
Please join us for worship Sunday morning at 10:30 AM!!"

Prelude: "All Hail King Jesus"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCsP0wOEaxY

Welcome & Announcements

- 1. A Congregational Meeting will be held after this morning's worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to lay before the congregation the renovations required for the Manse. The Board requires approval of the congregation before any work can proceed because of the amount the renovations will cost. A package outlining what is being proposed with costs has been sent to you and some additional copies will be available so that you as a congregation will be able to make an informed decision.
- 2. The Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca met to consider the call to Mr. Gerald Gallant from St. Andrew's on Tuesday evening, July 6th. They approved it as a True Gospel Call and Gerry accepted that Call! So the next step is for Gerry to start preaching here the beginning of September and for the Presbytery of Lanark-Renfrew to arrange a service of Ordination and Induction.

Call to Worship Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer of Invocation

Our gracious God and heavenly Father, whose love is steadfast and eternal and whose faithfulness continues to all generations, we come before you acknowledging that by your grace in Jesus Christ you have purchased us by his blood and made us your own people. And so we gather to worship you with our praises, prayers, offerings and in our reading and hearing from your word. As the sheep of your pasture we look to you to nurture us by your Holy Spirit working through these earthly means that we might rightly bless your name. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn: "O Worship the King", Grace Community Church https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0a1Pq9avbq

- O worship the King all glorious above And gratefully sing His power and His love Our Shield and Defender the Ancient of Days Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise
- O tell of His might O sing of His grace
 Whose robe is the light whose canopy space
 His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm
- 3. The earth with its store of wonders untold Almighty Thy power hath founded of old Established it fast by a changeless decree And round it hath cast like a mantle the sea
- 4. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite
 It breathes in the air it shines in the light
 It streams from the hills it descends to the plain
 And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain
- Frail children of dust and feeble as frail
 In Thee do we trust nor find Thee to fail
 Thy mercies how tender how firm to the end
 Our Maker Defender Redeemer and Friend
- 6. O measureless might ineffable love
 While angels delight to worship Thee above
 The humbler creation though feeble their lays
 With true adoration shall all sing Thy praise

Call to Confession (1John 1:9)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us come before the Lord our God and maker who remembers that we are but dust and has shown his compassion toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us that we might be forgiven our trespasses against him.

Prayer of Confession

Our righteous God and Father, we come to you praying from the depths of our fallen yet redeemed souls asking for your grace, mercy and forgiveness. For if you counted the sins that we have committed since last we met together, O Lord, who could stand? But your word assures us that with you there is forgiveness that you may be feared. And so we confess our sins, both known and unknown asking that they be taken from us and removed as far as the east

is from the west never to be held against us, not for our sakes but for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ who loved us and gave himself for us. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

In his word (Isa 43: 25) God makes this declaration: *I, I am he who blots your transgressions for my own sake and I will not remember your sins.* Trusting God means taking him at his word, and his word to us is that he has blotted out our sins and remembers them no more. Let us receive his forgiveness and carry on in faith, love and hope striving to be pleasing to him as we live out our lives.

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 30

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Hymn: "It Is Well With My Soul", Together For The Gospel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhaTlu_k4w0

1. When peace like a river

Attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll

Whatever my lot

Thou hast taught me to say

It is well

It is well with my soul

Chorus

It is well with my soul

It is well

It is well with my soul

2. Tho' Satan should buffet

Tho' trials should come

Let this blest assurance control

That Christ hath regarded

My helpless estate

And hath shed His own blood

For my soul

Chorus

It is well with my soul

It is well

It is well with my soul

3. My sin O the bliss

Of this glorious tho't

My sin not in part but the whole

Is nailed to the cross

And I bear it no more

Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord O my soul

Chorus

It is well with my soul

It is well

It is well with my soul

4. And Lord haste the day

When our faith shall be sight

The clouds be rolled back like a scroll

The trump shall resound

And the Lord shall descend

Even so it is well

With my soul

Chorus

It is well with my soul

It is well

It is well with my soul

Scripture Reading:

II Corinthians 5:11-21

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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: Victorious

(Romans 3:21-26)

Today we once again direct our attention to Jesus Christ as we continue our short series on "The Saga of Redemption."

By way of review, we have talked of God's holiness and His requirement of it from us, of man's failure to give God His due in the areas of His law and His holiness and of God's displeasure and curse upon all humanity because of personal sin. We have talked of God's redemption from sin, death and hell, in the person of Jesus Christ His Son, who is not only God with us, but also God for us,

and who supremely demonstrates it in His suffering and death. We've considered both the voluntary & vicarious nature of Christ's suffering & death, by which, he "put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." (Heb. 10:26:) Today we take up the victorious nature of His suffering and death.

I think we tend to confine our thoughts about the victorious nature of Christ's redemption in terms of His resurrection from the dead – and so we should. But there is the victorious aspect of redemption within His suffering & death as well.

To help us see the victorious side of it I want to read a passage from the epistle to the Romans. (Rom. 3: 21-27)

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it —22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.

Have you ever had someone angry with you for a justifiable reason? What did it feel like? What was your relationship with that person like during that time? What was it like when that person's anger was appeased? Why was that person's anger appeased?

The context of the passage just read tells us that; All are under sin and its dominion; That God has given laws to abide by in order to achieve holiness, but the Law only serves to magnify our sins – not make us holy. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" In God's sight and holy appraisal, all are morally & spiritually ugly. They no longer bear His holy image as when created. They are repulsive and are only deserving of His condemnation and wrath. There are none righteous and so no one can be justified in His sight (v. 20)

God is outraged with mankind for a justifiable reason – all have sinned. There is no justifiable way He can be happy with us in our sin – He is holy in His righteousness. If mankind is to be restored to His good graces – Then His anger will have to be appeased. But none are in a position to appease His wrath because we're all sinners – at enmity with God. There is none righteous – no one can come up to the righteous standards of our offended God.

It is at this point that we begin to realize the victory that has been achieved in the suffering and death of Christ. For now (v. 21) apart from the Law (by which no flesh will be justified because all sinned), the righteousness of God has been manifested. How is the righteousness of God manifested? It is manifested through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe! (v. 22). Although all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and thus fall short of His righteousness,

God declares sinners who believe in Jesus Christ, justified and therefore righteous.

In so doing, he gives them the righteousness they can't achieve. It's His gift to sinful believers. It's given to believers as a favour – not as a reward for merit – we only merit His wrath. Believers in Jesus Christ are "justified as a gift by His grace" (v. 24). Believers are justified/declared righteous – not because of something they do, but because of something God does. In a gracious act, God has accomplished for sinners what they could not do for themselves. He has justified them, declared them righteous and reconciled them to Himself. No more does he count their trespasses against them.

But surely a righteous and holy God can't just declare and accept believers in Christ righteous even though they aren't. He can't just sweep our sins under the carpet and pretend they never existed. He can't be just and allow our sins to go unpunished – that would make Him unjust. Even if He is gracious, He is morally bound to pour out His wrath against those who have offended His righteousness.

How then, can He declare sinners as being justified? He is free to do so (v 24), "Through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus." Through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, God the Father graciously bestows the righteousness achieved by Christ as He lived as a man under the Law, on those who place their faith in him.

Now that's a noble way to impute righteousness to those who believe, but what about their sins? Imputing the righteousness of Christ to trusting sinners doesn't solve the problem of sin. How does God impute Christ's righteousness to us and still remain just?

Answer: The redemption, which is in Christ Jesus, manifests God's righteousness in justifying sinners. (V. <u>25</u>) speaks of Jesus as being the One, "Whom God put forward (displayed publicly) as a 'propitiation' by His blood…"

As ministers of the gospel, we're admonished not to use big words that no one understands. But sometimes it is necessary. (It's interesting that other disciplines have words to describe things unique to their distinctive and it's accepted – Why not the same for theological terms?) In this passage we come across the term, *Propitiation*. It is an important word in the drama of redemption and without it there would be no victory in the suffering and death of Christ.

What does the term *Propitiation* mean? Propitiation is at its core, "**an appeasing.**" It refers to that which will turn away anger. In the context of our redemption from sin propitiation points to God's being appeased. It has to do with what brings about a change in God's attitude toward us, so that we are restored to His fellowship and favor. Thus propitiation brings in the personal element and stresses that God is no longer angry with us.

In terms of our experience, propitiation isn't a difficult concept. If I am angry because you have offended me, but you then appease me, the problem will be removed. But in terms of our alienation from God, there is nothing we could offer

God that would appease Him. You and I are unable to propitiate/appease the wrath of the Holy One we have offended.

But the text tells us there is one who can and who has made propitiation for our sin and that is the offended One Himself. At the cross – in the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, God in Christ acted to turn aside His own wrath against the sins of the human race! His propitiatory sacrifice was Jesus Christ, who is God Himself incarnate. At the cross, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself." (II Cor. 5: 18). At the cross, God publicly displayed Jesus Christ as a propitiation by His blood/death., or if you will, by His bloody death.

Behold what manner of love – That the holy, offended God of the universe, would serve as the wrath averting sacrifice to clear those who had offended Him. (1 John 4: 10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 2: 2) and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. The crucified Christ is the propitiatory gift of the Divine Love for the salvation of mankind.

God gave his Son as the means of propitiation, and in the gift of His Son as that means of propitiation, our Lord's death on behalf of sinful human beings demonstrated that God doesn't take sin lightly, that He doesn't just offer cheap grace – grace that has cost Him nothing, and further that He doesn't just sweep sin under the rug. The suffering and death of Jesus (v. 25), "Was to show god's righteousness." God had not been simply passing over the sins of His people who lived before the Incarnation. He demonstrated that in Christ at the cross. God doesn't just pass over the sins we commit either. He also demonstrated this at the cross.

On the cross Jesus Christ – God Incarnate, paid the penalty for our sin and removed it from us through His personal sacrifice in our place. God's law had been broken and his justice provoked. Both had to be attended to. Christ by his sacrifice has satisfied both. His death not only removed the penalty of our sin, it turned away the wrath of God. Christ's death for our sins pacified God – He could now pass over sins because of Christ's death. It removed the barrier that stood in the way of His love appearing and breaking forth upon His people.

In His incarnate life and His death on the cross, Jesus established a lawful basis by which God maintains His justice even if He justifies sinful human beings. Neither the wrath of God, nor any of the effects of it, can fall upon those persons whom Christ is the propitiation for. The suffering and death of Christ is the demonstration of God's victorious cancellation of sin.

Why did He demonstrate this at the cross? He had to demonstrate it at the cross in the suffering and death of Christ, (V. 27), To demonstrate His own holy righteousness so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. In the suffering and death of Jesus, God clearly demonstrated that He would not excuse the guilty. He also showed the world that He is merciful and gracious, in that he would be the innocent substitute to bear the penalty of the

guilty one. And so, he carried in his own body not only the penalty for our sin, but also the means of turning away His own wrath toward it. He was altogether righteous for He in no way compromised His standards. He was altogether victorious in atoning for sin as demonstrated by his resurrection from the cursed death he underwent. Indeed, (Rom 4: 25) refers to Christ as "He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification."

Now to whom does all this apply – To whom is He both just and justifier? Or you might ask to whom is the victory imputed? Whose sins did Jesus die for and turn God's wrath away from?

Since God is (V. 27), "Just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus," and the gift of justification by His grace, and the righteousness of God comes through faith in Jesus Christ, it follows that the redemption which is in Jesus Christ is appropriated to a person by faith and faith alone. Faith is the key to this great salvation – faith in Jesus.

Because faith is so crucial to God's redemptive plan, Paul can speak of a "law of faith" that governs God's salvation plan. Faith in what? Faith in Jesus Christ. I.e. In all that God has revealed about Him and through Him. There is salvation in no one else – for God has given mankind no other person or means under heaven by which we must be saved. My good morals and works won't do. It isn't faith in our knowledge of the Bible, faith in our doctrines or our view of future things, faith in our church or denomination. Neither are we saved by faith in our faith.

The Bible teaches in passages like this one, that we are saved not because of our faith, but by it. Faith, though ordained by God as the instrument of salvation – is only an instrument. It is Jesus who saves. He alone is God Incarnate – the word made flesh. It is in Him alone that the glory of God has been revealed in person. It is in Him alone that the fullness of God's grace and truth has been realized. He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He alone is the demonstration of God's righteous removal and appeasement of sin. It is in Christ alone that redemption is delivered to and for us. Faith in Him alone secures it all, glorifies God, and secures us for eternity. For in His suffering and death He was victorious. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Hymn: "In Christ Alone", Keith & Kristyn Getty https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16KYvflc2bE

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

- 2. In Christ alone who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live
- 3. There in the ground His body lay
 Light of the world by darkness slain
 Then bursting forth in glorious Day
 Up from the grave He rose again
 And as He stands in victory
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 For I am His and He is mine
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ
- 4. No guilt in life no fear in death
 This is the power of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No power of hell no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 Till He returns or calls me home
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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. standrewsperthoffering@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 (Acts 20:35)

"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

The opportunity to present offerings to the Lord for the extension of his kingdom and the assistance of those in need is an opportunity to be among the blessed. Let us present our offerings in a spirit of generosity and thanksgiving for the abundance provided to us by our sovereign Lord.

Offertory Prayer

Our Father and our God, giver of every good and perfect gift, thank you for this opportunity to give to you these portions of the wealth with which you have entrusted us. We pray that you will use them to advance your kingdom here on earth. May you be pleased to multiply the value of these offerings even as you multiplied the loaves and fishes when you walked this earth, so that they make a great impact for the coming of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Our great God and Saviour, we have been reminded of the wonderful victory over sin, death and hell that you have achieved for sinners through the incarnation of God the Son and that you impart to all those who rest in him as he is offered to us in the gospel. Well might we say with the hymn writer, O the love that drew salvation's plan, O the grace that brought it down to man, O the mighty gulf that God did span, at Calvary. For there on the cross, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting our trespasses against us. And so we praise and thank you for your love toward us in the great gift of salvation.

We thank you for your church. Founded in Christ and preserved by him, we take hope in his words that the gates of hell will not prevail against her. However sometimes we get discouraged because we fail to live up to his calling of holiness placed upon us. Sometimes we become discouraged with the waning adherence to your holy word in our denominational leaders. Yet we know that you are faithful and that your mercies are new every day. And so we pray for the church in our nation and in the world. May you be pleased to pour out your Spirit on the church in our day. Indeed, be pleased to pour out your Spirit on all mankind that we may be turned from the sinful folly that perverse hearts are prone to pursue. At the same time we give you thanks for the people being reached with the gospel and saved as its truth and love grip them and deliver them from the dominion of darkness into the kingdom of your beloved son.

We give you thanks for the easing of the pandemic in our nation and area. Thank you for the faithful men and women who served amid trying conditions as they cared for those afflicted with Covid as well as other illnesses through these trying months. We pray things will soon be back to the way things were prior to the pandemic. And as people ponder the threat of these phenomena, may we all be reminded that today is the day of salvation for tomorrow is promised to no one.

We remember those from this congregation who are in the throes of various illnesses or who may have suffered the loss of a loved one. Be pleased to sustain and grant recovery as fits your purposes. To others, grant the comfort of your presence and your promises that they might be cheered amid their afflictions. To the bereaved grant comforting hope as your remind them that weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning. When the going gets tough for any of us, remind us that our times are in your hands and that you do all things well as in

all things you work for the good of those who love you, who have been called according to your purpose.

We give you thanks for the calling of a shepherd for this congregation and pray that you will smooth the way for him and his family to take up residence and ministry among us here at St Andrews. May the congregation grow in grace, the knowledge and love of Christ, and may the lives of all within these courts be marked by holy boldness for Christ and his cause.

For these petitions voiced and the unspoken ones offered by those in the pews and in our homes, we ask for your grace in responding as pleases you, praying in the name of our exalted Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

"Ancient of Days ", CityAlight

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxFMal-Ely0

1. Though the nations rage

Kingdoms rise and fall

There is still one King

Reigning over all

So I will not fear

For this truth remains

That my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus

None above Him none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of days

2. Though the dread of night

Overwhelms my soul

He is here with me

I am not alone

O His love is sure

And He knows my name

For my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus

None above Him none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of days

3. Though I may not see
What the future brings
I will watch and wait
For the Saviour king
Then my joy complete

Standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

Chorus

None above Him none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of days

Tag

For my God is the Ancient of Days

Benediction

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. **Amen.**

Postlude: "O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing" (Instrumental) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64lrgbUQWi4