

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day
October 17, 2021
10:30 a.m.

The flowers are placed in honor of Ms. Elise Edmonds' 100th birthday. Happy Birthday Ms. Elise!

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

We Gather Together (Dutch Hymn Tune)
Arranged by Jan Sanborn

Call to Worship: Psalm 147:1-5

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 295**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace;
Whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end;
And round his pierced feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17:1-8

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

***Song of Praise**

Christ Will Be My Hideaway
I will dwell within the shelter
Of the God who reigns above.
I will rest beneath the shadow
Of the mighty King of love.
Though a sickness hides in darkness,
Though a plague destroys by day,
I will stand upon his promises,
Christ will be my hideaway.

(Chorus)

In you, my God, I trust.
You are strong and here with us.
In you, my hope remains.
Christ will be my hideaway.

Angels gather to protect me
When they hear my Savior call
Sovereign hands are ever ready
To uphold me should I fall.
Safe beneath his wings of refuge
All my fears are kept at bay.
I am shielded by his faithfulness,
Christ will be my hideaway. (Chorus)

Though a thousand fall around me,
Though death looks me in the eye,
Evil shall not have the vict'ry
While the Lord is at my side.
God in power raised my Savior,
I no longer fear the grave,
God in power raised my Savior,
I no longer fear the grave,
Through this fragile life and evermore,
Christ will be my hideaway. (*Chorus*)

(*Ending 2x*)

In you, my God, I trust.
You are strong and here with us.
In you, my hope remains.
Christ will be my hideaway.

The Lord's Prayer / Pastoral 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 evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory

Amy Reber, alto
Barb Rountree, soprano,
Elizabeth Rice, second soprano

Your Love Compels Me / And Can It Be?

By Doug Holck, arr. by Tom Fettke

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(During this song, children ages 4-6 may go to Children's Worship)

Sermon Series: Romans: Gospel Partnership

Sermon Text: Romans 4:13-17 (ESV)

Sermon Title: How Big Is Your God?

Pastor Jeff Birch

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

We are looking this morning at Romans 4:13-17 and the theme of how big is your God. Paul is continuing to exhort the church at Rome about the centrality of faith and the promise of God and here in this text he specifically is instructing them concerning the promise of salvation by showing us the bigness of God.

He is interested in showing us what God is up to, and what he is doing in your life. Summarizing this passage, I am reminded of Paul’s words to the church at Corinth in the famous passage in 1 Cor. 13, “So now faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13:13). How are we doing in cultivating these three in our spiritual formation? This provides an apt summary.

Maybe we need to consider that our God is too small. Maybe we settle for far too less in our spiritual formation, in our cultivation of Christ-like character. We have no greater need than to cultivate our understanding of the gospel and learning to live out of the gospel’s glorious realities.

In looking at this text this morning we will explore Paul’s flow of thought in three ways (Yes, we are returning to a three-point sermon).

- I. Faith Resting on True Grace
- II. Hope Built Upon an Enormous Promise
- III. Love for a Diverse Family

Hopefully you caught that trifecta of faith, hope and love. We commune with and serve a big God who is doing big things in our lives. There are none bigger than conforming us to the very image of Christ.

Reflection

Jesus did not come to make bad people good or good people better, but to bring dead people to life.” (Scott Sauls, Irresistible Faith)

***Hymn 521**

***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**
My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame.
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

(Chorus)

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil. (*Chorus*)

His oath, his covenant, his blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. (*Chorus*)

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne. (*Chorus*)

***The Benediction**

Postlude

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