

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

August 22, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

Jesus Messiah

By Chris Tomlin

Call to Worship: Psalm 113:1-3

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 53 (vs. 1-3, 5)**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,

The King of creation!

O my soul, praise him,

For he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear,

Now to his temple draw near,

Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things

So wondrously reigneth,

Shelters thee under his wings,

Yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen

How thy desires e'er have been

Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper

Thy work and defend thee!

Surely his goodness and mercy here

Daily attend thee;

Ponder anew what the Almighty will do,

If with his love he befriend thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath,

Come now with praises before him.

Let the amen sound from his people again;

Gladly fore'er we adore him.

The Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation,

came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; he was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***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.

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

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

Holy Is He (Holy, Holy, Holy)

By Tom Fettke

Who pardons my iniquities,
Who heals me from within?
Who lifts my fallen life
And sets me on my feet again?
Who leads me like a shepherd
When I've gone astray?
My Lord, my God, my Jesus,
The One I praise today!

***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.

Sermon Series: Romans: Gospel Partnership

Sermon Text: Romans 2:25-29 (ESV)

Sermon Title: Our True Identity

Pastor Jeff Birch

This morning we are looking at Romans 2:25-29. Paul has just told the Roman church that for all their privileges, all their blessings, that they still have a fundamental problem: we called it the problem of failure. We are all in the same boat, in need of the saving work of Jesus Christ. Thus, in the passage we are exploring this morning, we are learning that due to the failure of religion, the failure of what we count on most, what we need is a regenerated, new heart. A whole new identity. A whole new life. And that is what Christ gives. We will explore this theme from two perspectives this morning:

- I. Unmasking Our False Identities

- II. Embracing Our New Identity

²⁵ For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶ So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code^[c] and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Reflection

“The world tells us many lies about who we are, and you simply have to be realistic enough to remind yourself of this. Every time you feel hurt, offended, or rejected, you have to dare to say to yourself: These feelings, strong as they may be, are not telling me the truth about myself. The truth, even though I cannot feel it right now, is that I am the chosen child of God, precious in God’s eyes, called the Beloved from all eternity, and held safe in an everlasting embrace.” (Henri Nouwen, Life of the Beloved)

*Hymn 460 (vs. 1-3, 6)

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace!– how sweet the sound–

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,

I have already come;

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we've first begun.

*The Benediction

Postlude

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