

Holy, Holy, Holy

While reading through the book of Leviticus one might well burst out, “How glad I am that I do not have to keep all those laws!”

That would be an understandable reaction. The New Testament itself refers to those ordinances as a yoke that the Israelite people were unable to bear (Acts 15:10). It rejoices that the separating wall—the many ordinances and observances which cut Israel off from other peoples—has been broken down and that now all peoples may come freely to God (Ephesians-2). These ordinances acted like a corral, shutting up the people of Israel until the coming of Jesus Christ. Now that he has come, they are no longer needed and have been set aside.

These many laws, however, had a purpose. Their very number shows us that God may not be approached casually (as some people irreverently put it) as “the man upstairs.” God is a holy God. Before he could be approached by the ancient Israelites, there had to be a ceremony of cleansing or the offering of a sacrifice. Even now God is no less holy. The free access to him, of which we speak, was purchased at no less a price than the sacrifice of his only begotten son.

God is holy! That speaks, first of all, of the moral perfection of God. God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). Whoever is born of God does not commit sin (1 John 3:9).

God is holy! That also speaks to us of the incomparable majesty and awfulness of God. God dwells in light unapproachable. He is filled with majesty and glory. In the vision of Isaiah the seraphim called to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3).

Would we approach the holy God carelessly and irreverently? True worship of God is possible only by those who can sing,

“Exalt the LORD our God:
worship at his footstool!
Holy is he!” (Psalm 99:5)

*O worship the Lord
in the splendor of
holiness; tremble
before him, all the
earth.*

Psalms 96:9

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 208

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 32

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 157

“None Other Lamb, None Other Name”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 372

“Praise Waits for Thee in Zion”

Sermon Text

Luke 19:11-27

Sermon

FAITH AND THE COMING KING

*Hymn of Response # 529

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Sunday School.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.