

Silent Service

From the plain below, the clamor of battle rises with the dust stirred up by thousands of struggling warriors. The uneven ranks surge back and forth as now the Israelites and then the Amalekites advance.

On the hill above, standing out against the sky, are three men—Moses, Aaron, and Hur—Moses' hands being held up by the two other men (Exodus 17:12). These hands hold no sword to pierce the enemy; they tremble with fatigue. Nevertheless, raised as in a benediction, they are stronger than those of the greatest man of battle. If they waver and fall, the enemy surges forward; when they are raised, Israel prevails.

This is a picture of intercession, the support that the man of prayer offers to those who are in the forefront of the battle of faith. Intercession is but one part of prayer; yet it is an indispensable part. It is a work that the saint, humble in station but rich in faith, is able to perform, though he may seem to be far behind the front lines. It is a silent service, like that of a silent submarine which does not often break the surface but which carries hidden power to defend the homeland.

This service is portrayed throughout the scriptures. Abraham intercedes for the cities of the plain. Moses intercedes for Miriam and Aaron. Christ himself, the great intercessor, prays at the right hand of the Father as a priest forever.

Intercession should not be a strange work for the Christian. It springs up out of the soul of love, expressing the unbreakable unity of the body of Christ.

"Brothers, pray for us" (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

*...praying at all times in
the Spirit, with all
prayer and supplication.
To that end keep alert
with all perseverance,
making supplication for
all the saints....*

Ephesians 6:18

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 # 2

“O Worship the King”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 31

“Have You Not Known, Have You Not Heard”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou hast promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 535

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!”

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 # 304

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Sermon Text

Luke 20:27-40

Sermon

GOD OF THE LIVING

*Hymn of Response # 455

“And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

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.

Sunday, August 4. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church. But those who are not communicant members of our Church are asked to meet with the elders of the Church before partaking of the Lord's Supper. It is required that they meet with the elders only once.

Sunday, August 4. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of the hymn following The Lord's Supper.