

A Kingdom of Joy

A wealthy man paid a tremendous price to become a Christian. No sooner had he been baptized than all his possessions were taken from him and his wife and children disowned him. “Are you able to bear your troubles?” a fellow Christian asked him one day. “Many people ask me that question,” he replied, “but they never ask me whether I am able to bear my joys; for I enjoy a happiness in my heart since I know Christ which no one has been able to take from me.”

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of joy—“joy in the Holy Spirit.” When Paul wrote of the fruits of faith in Christ he said, “the fruit of the spirit is... joy.” “These things I have spoken to you,” said Jesus, “that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

The joy of the Kingdom is the joy of fellowship. “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” To be able to cry from the depths of our souls through faith in the crucified one, “Abba, Father,” is the highest joy that heaven can bestow. “In your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.” God has made us for himself just as truly as he has made us for each other. Only as we know God and his son Jesus Christ do we know the joy of living.

Our joy is the joy of service. Christ testified, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.” Christ's joy was in doing the will of his Father in heaven. Christ frees us as the members of his Kingdom from the power of sin and enables us once more to fulfill the purpose for which God made us. We are free to do the will of God to the glory of God. This is joyous living. This is the life of the Kingdom of God.

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of
Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter
of Jerusalem! Behold, your
king is coming to you;
righteous and having
salvation is he...his rule shall
be from sea to sea, and from
the River to the ends of the
earth.*

Zechariah 9:9,10

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 457

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 368

“The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear”

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 are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou has 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 # 371

“O Lord of Hosts, How Lovely”

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 # 518

“Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground”

Sermon Text

Luke 21:29-38

Sermon

LIVING WATCHFULLY

*Hymn of Response # 246

“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

There is no Sunday School class today.

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.