

Steadfastness in Waiting

Steadfastness and patience are not virtues of our time. We are all urged to go faster, to be more efficient and economical. Whatever we do must immediately attract attention and show results. Our actions must be big—the bigger the better.

In the church we have the Word of God, which is preached every week from our pulpits. We have the promise that God will not let his Word return unto him void. We have sacrificed to send out missionaries to the home and foreign fields. We have worked and prayed for the harvest.

But how often and how long we must wait for the results! Where are the startling results that our time requires? We would find it hard to impress the world with our statistics. Is then the arm of the Lord shortened, that he cannot save? We wait and we ask!

Noah waited, too. He was busy for many years, building his huge boat on the dry land, while the people laughed him to scorn and ridiculed his message that God would bring the world into judgment. The scriptures record that Noah preached righteousness and judgment for 120 years. Noah preached and waited for 120 years without visible results!

Such is the providence of God. In the work of the gospel we must often endure delays, just when they seem to be the most meaningless and thus are the most difficult to endure. We are held up; we begin to chafe under the delay; and we start to question. But the scriptures say, “The testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

It is not for us to determine when and where God will give the results that he has promised by the preaching of his word. Faithful Noah, moved with fear, prepared an ark. He built and preached, while things went on as usual around him. Things looked so very solid! His message could be made to look so ridiculous! The people could say so easily, “Peace and safety.” But then—in God's good time—the results came, and the world was judged.

Noah's faith was steadfast in waiting. It was a faith that was steadfast when all appearances were against it and when it rested only on the promises of God. The scoffing world was judged; but this steadfast faith was vindicated.

*...for you know
that the testing of
your faith
produces
steadfastness.*

James 1:3

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 # 53

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 8

“Mighty God, While Angels Bless You”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto thee that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe thy Word nor follow thy holy commandments. Remember thy goodness, we beseech thee, and for thy Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is great.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 642

“Be Thou My Vision”

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 # 529

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Sermon Text

Luke 21:25-28

Sermon

THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

*Hymn of Response # 693

“Blessed Assurance”

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.