

A Portrait of the Christian

Portraits can be beautiful and inspiring. A talented painter will capture something of the character of his subject and bring it to visible expression. A portrait may identify the person's role in life. Portraits of kings and queens reflect their royal office, for example.

In Psalm 1, David gives us a vivid portrait of the Christian by contrasting the godly with the wicked. Such is the contrast between those who claim Jesus as their Savior and Lord and those who have yet to be reconciled to God through saving faith in him.

The Psalmist paints the Christian as a blessed (or happy) person. The opening verse is the first stroke of the brush. It states the essential blessedness of the godly. The apostle Paul put it this way: “praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

In the next stroke David likens the godly person to a tree that is carefully planted. The image is one probably well known in David's day: a tree nourished by streams of water and lush with green leaves and delicious fruit. Today we would speak of fruit trees watered by irrigation.

The Christian is selected (planted) by God to be his child and to bring glory to his name. God places him by the rivers of pardon and grace. These streams nourish him with the Word of God, prayer, the sacraments and the fellowship of other believers.

Just as the tree is planted and sustained by life-giving water in order to bear fruit, the Christian is provided with the means of grace to produce much fruit to the glory of God.

Do you see yourself as a fruitful tree? You should if you know Jesus as your Savior. Are you availing yourself of the means of grace in order to glorify and enjoy your heavenly Father? You should if you are the Christian Jesus calls you to be. Remember his words: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last” (John 15:16).

*He is like a tree
planted by streams of
water that yields its
fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not
wither.*

Psalm 1:3

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

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 55

“To God Be the Glory”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 2

“O Worship the King”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

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 # 157

“None Other Lamb”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing
We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 303

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

Sermon Text

Luke 22:1-6

Sermon

PREPARING THE PASSOVER

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 429

“Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured”

Celebrating the Supper

Hymn of Response # 172

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

Congregation remains seated as an offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of this hymn.

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today. 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.

Today. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of hymn 172, following the Lord's Supper. Please remain seated for the singing of the hymn and then stand for the singing of the Gloria Patri and pronouncement of the Lord's Benediction.

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

There is no Tuesday Bible study this week. Pastor Wayne is attending a conference. The Tuesday Bible study resumes on Tuesday, October 15 at 7:30pm