

The God of Peace

Paul speaks of “the God of peace.” And yet you ask, “If I have God, then why don't I have a sense of peace?” If you belong to Jesus Christ by grace through faith, then you have peace *with* God regardless of how you feel (Romans 5:1). “But how can I have the peace *of* God, since he is the God of peace?”

Paul wrote a thank-you letter to the Philippian church for providing for his material needs in prison. As with so many churches, it had its share of tensions. Heretics were trying to muscle their way in. The church's position in a pagan society was always tenuous at best, and on top of that, key leaders were mad at each other! So what did Paul tell them to do?

First, he told them to rejoice and be gentle with each other because the Lord was near (Philippians 4:4, 5). Then he told them to replace anxiety with prayer, and then peace would automatically follow (verses 6, 7). Finally, he told them to get a grip on their thinking—to change *how* they thought and *what* they thought about (verse 8). Whatever was true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, or praiseworthy must dominate their thoughts.

These were virtues the average Roman pagan might have admired. But centered in Christ, they would become real through the Spirit's transforming power. This was true of Paul. It was why he could say, “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things” (verse 9). Then and only then “the God of peace will be with you.” Only as we grow in sanctification, through obedience in our thinking and acting, does the sense of God's peace grow as well.

Does that mean our problems finally vanish, and the tensions that go with them? Hardly! Paul continued to be persecuted at every turn. But amid the worst the world could throw at him, he learned the secret of contentment—inner peace—not through stoical self-control, but through the power of the Spirit.

Your problems may continue, but they cannot prevent you from knowing the presence of the God of peace.

*I will give you...
peace in this
place.*

Jeremiah 14:13

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 # 269

“Welcome, Happy Morning!”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 267

*“The Day of Resurrection!”***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 # 243

“Praise the Savior Now and Ever”

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 # 277

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 29:15-29

Sermon

BECOMING WISE

*Hymn of Response # 460

*“Amazing Grace”***THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING**

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

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

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. 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, April 6. 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, April 6. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of the hymn following The Lord's Supper.