

Our Amazing God

God is a God of amazing things. He infuses new life and new hope in those crushed in spirit. If you think God has abandoned you and wants nothing more to do with you because of some sin in which you feel trapped, God breaks through with surprising grace.

What seems impossible to man is possible to God. Israel's captivity in Babylon seemed endless, a constant reminder of the sin that brought them there. In their despair they said, even as you may have said, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God” (Isaiah 40:27). But God did a new thing, perhaps for many an unexpected thing. He overthrew those who held them in bondage and in sheer grace brought them back to the land of their forefathers.

God's power to do the unexpected in your life is no less real than it was in the life of his people of old. And it is based on who he is now and what he has done in the past, both of which are past finding out. “The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 40:28). A God who is everlasting and who has created this unendingly wondrous thing called earth can do wonders with you of which you can scarcely dream. “He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength” (verse 29).

You feel you've gone too far, too long, to expect mercy in your case. Think again. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from *all* unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, italics added).

The reason God can be so generous is based on something even more amazing. God took your sins, so ugly, foul, and stinking, and laid them on his pure, perfect, and undefiled son. Jesus—beaten, whipped, scourged, crucified—lay dead in a tomb. And everybody knows that when you're dead you're dead. Everybody except God that is. With God all things are possible. God can even raise the dead. Just as he raised dead Israel out of the tomb of Babylon, so he raised Jesus out of a literal tomb. And just as Jesus took your sins on himself, in all their horror, so he has given you his righteousness by your simple act of faith in him.

If God did not spare his own son but gave him up for you, how will he not also with him graciously give you all things? (Romans 8: 32).
Amazing.

God Is Faithful.

1 Corinthians 1:9

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 # 235

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 240

“The King of Glory Comes”

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 # 252

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

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 # 247

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 30:6-18

Sermon THE ORACLE CONCERNING THE BEASTS OF THE NEGEV

*Hymn of Response # 319

“Day of Judgment! Day of Wonders!”

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. 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.

Friday, May 23-Monday, May 26. Sierra Christian Conference Association Memorial Day Weekend conference. Pastor Nathaniel Vroom will speak on “Nicodemus: A Disciple in the Shadows?” See the pamphlet on the sanctuary table for more information and a registration form. No registrations are accepted after May 15.

Monday July 7-Friday, July 11. Summer Camp at Redwood Christian Park, Boulder Creek. Dr. James N. Anderson will speak on “War of the Worldviews: Defending the Faith in a Pluralistic Culture.” More information and an online registration form are available on the Presbytery's website: <https://pncnopc.org/summer-camp/>.