

The Trial of Our Faith

You have just achieved a little success. Perhaps it's a fresh assurance of your faith. Perhaps you have seen a new spirit of unity in your church and a renewed devotion to Christ. Perhaps your job is going better than ever. Then comes a fresh doubt. Or a new problem erupts in the church that threatens to undo the unity you had prayed so hard for. Or you hit a bump in your job, maybe even lose it. You want to go ahead. You think you're getting somewhere. Then you hit a roadblock. Now what?

Why did this thing have to come just now, just when you have begun to pick up speed? Why did this yellow, diamond-shaped sign saying, "Caution, detour ahead," have to pop up at just this moment? Why this delay, now of all times? "Can't I have even a little success without frustration? Am I to spend my whole life with just a few high spots, with just a couple of victories for Christ? Am I to spend the rest of my life preparing, waiting, taking detours?"

You could see the whole thing as senseless. Or you could see this delay as coming from God's hand. You could become irritable and impatient. Or you could remember the words of Scripture, "Suffering produces endurance" (Romans 5:3).

When faced with God's roadblock don't try to force your way through it. Realize you have no choice but to take the detour God has put in your way. Being true to God and his word means we must be willing in faith to endure awkward delays and painful losses, even though they make no sense to us. At the same time we must pray that God will use our efforts as he sees fit. In his own time and in his own way God will use and reward every work that is done for his glory.

Take the detour, and forge ahead! If the detour means a new trial of faith, a new form of suffering, know that "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:3-5). The trial of our faith is not designed to bring us to despair, even though we may be tempted to think so. It is designed to refine our character and strengthen our hope.

We Have Confidence in the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 3:4

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 # 8

“Mighty God, While Angels Bless You”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 75

*“O Father, You Are Sovereign”***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 # 51

“O Jehovah, Hear My Words”

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 # 376

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 32:9-20

Sermon

UNTIL THE SPIRIT

*Hymn of Response # 92

*“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”***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.

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.

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/>.