

The God Who Redeems

The book of Joshua describes one of the strangest battles ever fought. According to the Lord's command, the children of Israel circled the city of Jericho once a day for six days, and on the seventh day they circled it seven times. As they completed their last journey around the city, they blew their trumpets and gave a great shout, and the walls of the city fell outward, so that each soldier could enter the city directly in front of him.

When the children of Israel shouted, the walls fell—except the part which supported the house of Rahab, where she and her family were taking refuge. Of the inhabitants of the city only she and her family were saved.

If God was to show his mercy, why did he save only one family out of the ruins of Jericho, and why did he show mercy to ones who were among the worst in the entire city? The Bible says that Rahab was a prostitute. One might think that she was not worthy of being saved.

But the Scriptures tell us something more about Rahab. When Joshua's spies were in danger, Rahab protected them. To them she confided her belief that God had given them the land of Canaan. She helped the spies escape.

Rahab also confessed her faith in the living and true God: "...for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath" (Joshua 2:11). The book of Hebrews gives us the final, divine answer to our questions about Rahab: "By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies" (Hebrews 11:31).

Rahab rightly belongs on the roll of the faithful. In her own right she had nothing to commend her to God. But she realized her danger; she confessed the Lord of heaven and earth, and she came to him for refuge.

That is God's way of salvation. Christ said, "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." We are saved by *grace*, through *faith*. Rahab was not saved because of what she had or what she was. She was saved by her faith in the God who redeems.

*For by grace you have
been saved through
faith.*

*And this is not your
own doing; it is the
gift of God,*

*Not a result of works,
so that no one may
boast.*

Ephesians 2:8,9

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 # 2

“O Worship the King”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 316

“The Mighty God, the Lord”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Lord God, Eternal and Almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, asking you, through your grace, to relieve our distress. Remind us of your compassion, O Father of mercies. Remind us of all the benefits that are ours in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We also ask that you grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness, which are pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 40

“God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 99

“My Song Forever Shall Record”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 37:30-38

Sermon

FOR DAVID'S SAKE

*Hymn of Response # 470

“How Vast the Benefits Divine”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

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.

Saturday, September 13, 12:00pm – 4:00pm. Our annual Fall church picnic takes place at Picnic Area #4 (near the concrete slide) at Codornices Park in Berkeley (1201 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708). Please use the QR Code to access the online potluck sign-up sheet.



The adult Sunday School class is cancelled until further notice. The Sunday School schedule and classes are being reworked.