

Humbled and Obedient

Most of us admire successful people. We relish stories of those who started out obscure and broke and by dint of hard work, self-confidence, and the right breaks made it to the top.

What about the opposite case? Would we also admire someone who gave up wealth and power for a life of obscurity and poverty in the service of others?

Yet that is what Jesus did for us. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). His poverty involved considerably more than abandoning the glory of heaven for a few years before returning again; it meant that the very God himself assumed a human nature exactly like ours, with the lone exception of sin. “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:7b, 8).

Humbled...obedient...We may pass over these words without much thought. But pause a minute. That God the Son would humble himself to take on human form is staggering of itself. But that, in obedience to the Father, he should stoop to die...on a cross....To a first-century Roman this was death in the gutter. To a Jew, death by any form of hanging was a mark of excommunication from God’s covenant.

Reflecting on these two viewpoints, commentator Ralph P. Martin observed that what was disgusting to Romans and scandalous to Jews “became the very nerve center” of Paul’s doctrine of the cross and reconciliation. Moreover, “only a divine being can accept death as obedience; for ordinary men it is a necessity.” That Jesus should choose not just death, but such a death, out of obedience to his Father and out of love for both him and us, demonstrates his divinity and authority.

*And being found in
human form, he
humbled himself by
becoming obedient
to the point of death,
even death on a
cross.*

Philippians 2:7b, 8

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

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 101

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 372

“Praise Waits for Thee in Zion”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 371

“O Lord of Hosts, How Lovely”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 333

“Gracious Spirit, Dove Divine”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 43:1-7, pew Bible p. 603

Sermon

PRECIOUS IN MY EYES

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 420

“At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing”

Celebrating the Supper

Hymn of Response # 469

“How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place”

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 469, 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.

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.