

Humility

Augustine, the great saint and Bishop of the fourth century, was once asked what the first rule of the Christian religion was. He replied, “Humility.” And what is the second rule? “Humility,” he answered. What then would the third law of the Kingdom be? Again, the learned Augustine replied, “Humility.” This was not an oversimplification. It is precisely what Jesus taught. Jesus said, “unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3b,4).

The first law for entrance into the kingdom is humility. The only way to the kingdom of God is through the little “wicket gate” that Bunyon so graphically portrayed. We have to stoop low or we will never enter. We must cry out with bowed head and broken heart, “God, be merciful to me a sinner.” He who would with high and lofty look boast that he is better than other men will never pass through the door to the kingdom.

Likewise, the first law for greatness in the kingdom is humility. The disciples had come to Jesus asking who is the greatest in the kingdom. To them greatness was a matter of standing and authority; the important question was: who was to sit on the right hand and who on the left hand of Jesus? Christ told them that they had it all wrong. It wasn't a matter of official position; it *was* a matter of service. “He that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”

Of all the teachings of Jesus the disciples found this the hardest to understand and to follow. After three years of listening to Jesus and observing his life of selfless service, they still hadn't learned the lesson. Luke tells us that at the Last Supper the disciples were still asking which of them was the greatest. So our Lord had to take a basin of water and wash their feet in a final effort to get through to them how deep-seated is pride; yes, even in the devoutest Christian.

*Do nothing out of
selfish ambition or
vain conceit. But
in humility
consider others
better than
yourselves.*

Philippians 2:3

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.



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 # 38

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 176

“Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus!”

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 # 281

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 535

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 48:17-22, pew Bible p. 609

Sermon

GO OUT FROM BABYLON

*Hymn of Response # 172

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Prayer Meeting. Church doors will open at 10:00am for gathering and sharing prayer requests. Prayer will begin at 10:15am. Children are welcome to attend. If you have questions or would like to be added to the prayer request email list, please see Jessica Verby.

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 Joshua. 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.