

The Trial of Our Faith

We want to go ahead. We think that we are getting somewhere. Then we meet an obstacle. Something gets in our way and blocks it. We have just achieved some success. Perhaps we have just attained a new assurance of our Christian faith. Perhaps we have just witnessed a new spirit of unity in our church and a revival of devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. Then comes a fresh doubt. Then comes a new sort of problem in the church which threatens again its unity and its witness to the Lord.

We ask ourselves why this obstacle had to come just now. Why must a delay come, now of all times? Are even our few successes to be frustrated? Is our entire life to be spent with just a few high spots, with just a couple of victories for Christ? Is the rest of the time to be spent in preparing, in waiting, and in taking detours?

We might say, "How senseless!" Or we might see this delay as something from God's hand. We might become irritated, and impatiently try to go around. Or we might remember the words of the scriptures, "suffering produces endurance" (Romans 5:3).

When we are faced with a testing by God, we should not look for a way around it; we should see that there is no other way but to go by this detour that God has put in our way. If we are to be true to God and to his Word, we must be willing to take these awkward delays in faith, praying that God will use our labors to his glory, even though we cannot see their purpose clearly. In his own time and in his own way God will use and reward every work that is done for his glory.

We should not try to go around. We should go on. For if the detour means a new trial of our faith, a new tribulation, we 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: 4, 5).

*Therefore let those
who suffer according
to God's will entrust
their souls to a
faithful Creator
while doing good.*

1 Peter 4:19

Covenant Presbyterian Church
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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 # 55

“To God Be the Glory”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 309

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

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 art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou hast 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 # 510

“Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 330

“Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 49:24-26, pew Bible p. 611

Sermon

THE MIGHTY ONE OF JACOB

*Hymn of Response # 710

“God of Our Fathers”

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.