

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday, 22 March 2020, 10:00 AM

citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH

ASHEVILLE

FOR REFLECTION

“[Power] comes when our vision is centered on the glory and praise of God... What we need is a greater vision of Christ increasing until he has changed [our community & world] and then to give God no rest until this takes place.”

– *Jack Miller,*
The Heart of a Servant

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

– *A.W. Tozer*

“God was neither surprised nor afraid. You see, there is no mystery with God. He is never caught off guard. He never wonders how he is going to deal with the unexpected thing. I love the words of Daniel 2:22: ‘He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him.’ God is with you in your moments of darkness because he will never leave you. But your darkness isn’t dark to him. Your mysteries aren’t mysterious to him. Your surprises don’t surprise him. He understands all the things that confuse you the most. Not only are your mysteries not mysterious to him, but he is in complete charge of all that is mysterious to you and me. Remember today that there is One who looks at what you see as dark and sees light. And as you remember that, remember, too, that he is the ultimate definition of everything that is wise, good, true, loving, and faithful. He holds both you and your mysteries in his gracious hands, and because he does, you can find rest even when the darkness of mystery has entered your door.”

– *Paul Tripp,*
New Morning Mercies

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1834 | Music: Nathan Partain, 2000 UBP

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who, like me, his praise should sing?
Come and worship, come and worship,
Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise him for his grace and favor,
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Glorious in his faithfulness.
3. God our Father tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Widely as his mercy goes.
4. Angels, help us to adore him,
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Praise with us the God of grace!

CALL TO WORSHIP

from *Psalms 92*

Minister: How great are your works, O LORD!
How profound your thoughts!

All: **You, O LORD, are exalted forever.**

Minister: The LORD is upright; He is our Rock,

All: **and there is no wickedness in him.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *Psalms 115, 24, 95, 50; Job 12*

All: **The highest heavens are yours, including the countless multitude of stars. The earth is yours and everything in it, the world and everyone who lives in it. You hold in your hand the depths of the seas and the peaks of the mountains. The oceans are yours, for you made them, and your hands formed the continents. Every beast in forest and jungle is yours, and the cattle on a thousand hills. You are a great God and a great King above all the gods. In your hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.**

HYMN OF ADORATION

It Is Well with My Soul

Public Domain. Words: Horatio Spafford. Music: Philip Bliss.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul”

Chorus:

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

READINGS FROM PSALM 4 & 27

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!... the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!” In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?... For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.... Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, Lord, do I seek.” Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.... I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Matthew 11:28

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

CONFESSION OF SIN*

Minister: God our Father, we recount from the Scriptures the old stories of your saving power, yet we doubt that you are powerfully at work in our lives today. We are crushed by the waves of misery, distrust, misfortune, distress, anger, disease, war, broken governments, broken families, and broken lives, and we wonder how we can still these waves. The pressures of the world, the flesh, and the devil bring a fear into our lives we cannot silence ourselves. Fear threatens to drown us, and we wonder where you are and if you care.

All: **Forgive us for the littleness of our faith.
Forgive us for our doubts.**

(You're invited to take a moment of silent confession.)

Minister: O Lord, when the waters rage and foam,

All: **still the storms and grant us your peace.**

Minister: When the gift of creation becomes a burden,

All: **still the storms and grant us your peace.**

Minister: When our fears threaten to overtake us,

All: **still the storms and grant us your peace.**

Minister: Speak your word to the wind and to the sea.

All: **Fill us with faith.**

Minister: Show us your presence through our storms.

All: **Fill us with hope.**

Minister: Make the joy of your peace overflow in our lives.

All: **Fill us with love.**

Minister: Help us to place our trust in you, Lord Jesus.

All: **Help us to fix our eyes on you and to respond in faith.
For we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Romans 10:9-13

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame ... everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

In Christ Alone

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend. Copyright © 2001 Kingsway

1. In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

READINGS FROM PSALM 46 & ROMANS 8

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD ... "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the

mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

HYMN OF GOD'S GRACIOUS CARE FOR US

All Must Be Well

Words by Mary Bowley-Peters alt by Matthew S. Smith, Music by Matthew S. Smith. © 2007 Detuned Radio Music (ASCAP)

1. Through the love of God our Savior,
All will be well
Free and changeless is His favor,
All is well
Precious is the blood that healed us
Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us
All must be well
2. Though we pass through tribulation,
All will be well
Ours is such a full salvation,
All is well
Happy still in God confiding
Fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding
All must be well
3. We expect a bright tomorrow;
All will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,
All is well
On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well

GOD SPEAKS WITH US

YOU ARE NOT FORSAKEN

REV. DUFF JAMES

Psalm 94:18-19

- 18** When I thought, "My foot slips,"
your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.
19 When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

In the Secret of His Presence

Words: Ellen Goreh | Music: Christopher Minor

In the secret of His presence how my soul delights to hide!
Oh, how precious are the lessons which I learn at Jesus' side!
Earthly cares can never vex me, neither trials lay me low;
For when Satan comes to tempt me, to the secret place I go,
To the secret place I go.

When my soul is faint and thirsty, 'neath the shadow of His wing
There is cool and pleasant shelter, and a fresh and crystal spring;
And my Savior rests beside me, as we hold communion sweet:
If I tried, I could not utter what He says when thus we meet,
What He says when thus we meet.

Only this I know: I tell Him all my doubts, my griefs and fears;
Oh, how patiently He listens! and my drooping soul He cheers:
Do you think He ne'er reproves me? What a false Friend He would be,
If He never, never told me of the sins which He must see,
Of the sins which He must see.

Would you like to know the sweetness of the secret of the Lord?
Go and hide beneath His shadow: this shall then be your reward;
And when'er you leave the silence of that happy meeting place,
You must mind and bear the image of the Master in your face,
Of the Master in your face.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

SENDING HYMN

He Will Hold Me Fast

Words & Music Ada Habershon, Matthew Merker | © 2013 Matthew Merker Music, Getty Music Publishing

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast.

Chorus:

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last!

DISMISSAL & SENDING

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!



Elders

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Amanda Johnson :: Fiddle/Vocals
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Leon Olguin :: Keyboard/Vocals
Brandon Smith & Mark Iverson :: Sound Technicians

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