

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK



Anna Long

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday, 13 September 2020, 10:00 AM
citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH

ASHEVILLE

“Young people who purport to be wise to the ways of the world are mostly just cynical. Cynicism is not wisdom. Cynicism is self-imposed blindness. You put the blinders on yourself to protect yourself from a world you think will hurt/disappoint you.”

– Stephen Colbert

“Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.”

– C.S. Lewis

“Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages ... Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.”

– Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

“If the Lord be with us, we have no cause to fear. His eye is upon us, his arm over us, his ear open to our prayer – his grace sufficient, his promise unchangeable.”

– John Newton

“The most dangerous aspect of our relationships is not our weakness, but our delusions of strength. Self-reliance is almost always a component of a bad relationship.”

– Paul Tripp

“The way of Jesus cannot be imposed or mapped – it requires an active participation in following Jesus as he leads us through sometimes strange and unfamiliar territory, in circumstances that become clear only in the hesitations and questionings, in the pauses and reflections where we engage in prayerful conversation with one another and with him.... When we sin and mess up our lives, we find that God doesn’t go off and leave us – he enters into our trouble and saves us.”

– Eugene Peterson

“The Dark Lord has Nine. But we have One, mightier than they: the White Rider. He has passed through the fire and the abyss, and they shall fear him. We will go where he leads.”

– Aragorn in *Lord of the Rings*

GATHERING HYMN

My God, My Father, Blissful Name

Words: Anne Steele, 1770. | Music and Variant Text: Nathan Poole, 2013

1. My God, my Father, blissful name
Oh may I call Thee mine?
May I with sweet assurance claim
A portion so divine?
This only can my fears control
And bid my sorrows fly;
What harm can ever reach my soul
Beneath my Father's eye?
2. Whate'er Thy providence denies
I calmly would resign
For Thou art just, and good, and wise
O bend my will to Thine
Whate'er Thy sacred will ordains
O give me strength to bear;
And let me know my Father reigns
And trust His tender care
3. If pain and sickness rend this frame
And life almost depart
Is not Thy mercy still the same
To cheer my drooping heart?
If cares and sorrows me surround
Their power why should I fear?
My inward peace they cannot wound
If Thou, my God, art near

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96:1-4

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

All: **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the people.

All: **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF ADORATION

All Your Works Are Good (Psalm 104)

Words & Music: Jill Gullahorn, Julie Ann Lee, & Sandra McCracken

1. The moon it marks the seasons
The sun knows when to go down
The ocean holds its creatures
The river knows its bounds
2. The birds, the trees, the cattle
And all things great and small
We find our place in creation
Your hand sustains it all
3. He makes the clouds his chariot
He wraps himself in light
He stretches out the heavens,
Like a tent across the sky

Chorus:

All your works are good.
All your works are good.
From everlasting, to everlasting,
All your works are good.

4. He knows our every burden
When darkness veils our eyes
He comes with spring returning,
Bringing death to life
5. As we labor until evening
There's a message on the wind
Be still and know your maker
Be satisfied in Him

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

based on Romans 15:13

Leader: Christian, what do you believe concerning the hope of God?

All: **We believe the God of hope will fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Beautiful, Scandalous Night

Words and Music by Derri Daugherty and Steve Hindalong; © 1992

1. Go on up to the mountain of mercy
To the crimson perpetual tide
Kneel down on the shore
Be thirsty no more
Go under and be purified
2. Follow Christ to the Holy mountain
Sinner, sorry and wrecked by the fall
Cleanse your heart and your soul
In the fountain that flows
For you and for me and for all

Chorus

- At the wonderful tragic mysterious tree
On that beautiful scandalous night you and me
Were atoned by His blood and forever washed white
On that beautiful scandalous night
3. On the hillside you will be delivered
At the foot of the cross, justified
And your spirit restored
By the river that pours
From our blessed Savior's side

CALL TO CONFESSION

Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Our gracious Shepherd and our God, we ask for mercy. You have called us to abide in you and to follow you with faith and hope wherever you lead us and in whatever lot you place us.

All: **But we have turned aside from your way, and foolishly trusted ourselves.**

Leader: You have given us light and life by your word and Spirit so that we might walk with you faithfully and boldly.

All: **But our faith has withered when we faced trouble, and our trust has eroded in the midst of trial.**

Leader: You have said to us “You shall have no other gods before me” to protect us. But we confess that during our trials we have turned to other gods and served them:

All: **Prestige
Wealth
Self-protection
Certainty
Status**

Leader: These idols promise much but deliver little. Forgive us for seeking in them what you alone give by grace:

All: **Peace
Righteousness
Security
Purpose
Hope**

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

Leader: Our gracious Shepherd and our God, remind us that we are your children, and fill us with your Spirit so that our lives might always be faithful and fruitful.

All: **Renew our hearts and strengthen our faith, for your name's sake. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 2:24

“Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

Thy Mercy, My God

Words: John Stocker | Music: Sandra McCracken; ©2001 Same Old Dress Music (ASCAP).

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

Our guest preacher: Originally from New Jersey, J.R. graduated from Clemson University (where he and Duff first met) and Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC. He began his tenure with Reformed University Fellowship (the campus ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America) in 1999 as the campus minister at Florida State University. After five years in Florida, J.R. accepted a call to begin RUF at Virginia Tech, where he served for six years. In the summer of 2010, the Fosters moved to Greenville, SC in order for J.R. to begin a call as the Area Coordinator for RUF. He has been married since 1995 to his wife, Eliza (who grew up with Duff), whom he met while they were both students at Clemson. J.R. and Eliza are the parents of two sons and a daughter.

Revelation 22:1-5

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

This Is Not My Place of Resting

Words: Horatius Bonar (alt. Smith) | Music: Justin Smith © 2014 Justin Smith Music

This is not my place of resting,
Mine's a city yet to come;
Onward to it I am hastening,
On to my eternal home.

Chorus:

In that land of light and glory,
O'er it shines a nightless day
Every tear from sin's sad story,
all the curse has passed away

There the Lamb and Shepherd leads us
By the streams of life along
On the freshest pastures feeds us
Turns our sighing into song.

Soon we pass this desert dreary,
Soon we bid farewell to pain;
Never more be sad nor weary,
Never, never sin again.

BENEDICTION

JR FOSTER

DISMISSAL & SENDING

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

Thanks be to God!