

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK



Anna Long

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday, 1 November 2020, 10:00 AM

citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH

ASHEVILLE

“He gets down into the very substance from which he formed me and sits patiently running the earth through his hands.”

– *Alison McNeely Buxton*

“It is in the process of being worshiped that God communicates his presence to us.”

– *C.S. Lewis*

“In love, God recommences indefinitely the work which man bungles.”

– *Jacques Ellul*

“Have your heart right with Christ, and he will visit you often, and so turn weekdays into Sundays, meals into sacraments, homes into temples, and earth into heaven.

– *Charles Spurgeon*

“The glory of God shines, indeed, in all creatures on high and below, but never more brightly than in the cross.”

– *John Calvin*

“The answer [to suffering] must be someone, not just something. For the problem of suffering is about someone (God – why does he ... why doesn't he?) rather than just something. To question God's goodness is not just an intellectual experiment ... The hurt child needs not so much explanations as reassurances. And that is what we get ... in the person of Jesus. The answer is not just a word but The Word; not an idea but a person. Clues are abstract, persons are concrete ... Our solution cannot be a mere idea, however true ... God did not varnish over sin and suffering. He came into it ... ”

– *Peter Kreeft*

“Only at the cross of Christ does man see fully what it is that separates him from God; yet it is here alone that he perceives that he is no longer separated from God. Nowhere else does the inviolable holiness of God, the impossibility of overlooking the guilt of man stand out more plainly; but nowhere else does the limitless mercy of God, which utterly transcends all human standards, stand out more clearly and plainly.”

– *Emil Brunner*

GATHERING HYMN

10,000 Reasons

Written by Matt Redmon and Jonas Myrin (c) 2011. Thankyou Music (PRS)

Chorus:

- Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I worship Your holy name.
1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
Its time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.
 2. You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.
 3. And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Soon my soul will sing Your praise unending:
Ten thousand years and then forever more!

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96:1-4

Minister: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

All: **Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF ADORATION

Here, O Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

Words: Horatius Bonar, 1855. Music and Variant Text: Nathan Poole, 2011

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face.
And here will I touch, and handle things unseen.
Here, with firmer hand, I grasp eternal grace.
And all of my weariness, upon thee lean.

Chorus:

I have seen the Son, the ever-reigning Lord,
prove his promise does not fail.
May the bonds of love, that call me to His side,
Grow ever deeper and fuller still.

I would have no help, nor do I need
Another arm, but thine and thine alone
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed
Thy strength is all I dare to lean upon.

Here would I feed, upon the bread of God
And here the new wine, is poured out for me.
Here would I lay aside the world's best love,
And here would I taste, God's love, wild and free.

Minister: How does Christ's return 'to judge the living and the dead' comfort you?

All: **In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head,
I confidently await Jesus the judge
who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place
and removed the whole curse from me.**

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

Isaiah 55:5-9

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

CONFESSION OF SIN*

Minister: God our Father, your son died and was raised up in power.
Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance so we may rise to new life in him.
We confess to you:

All: **though you should guide us, Lord, we inform ourselves;
though you should rule us, we control ourselves;
through you should fill us, we console ourselves.**

Minister: Savior, help us. We are slow to learn, prone to forget, and too weak to climb.
We are in the foothills when we should be in the heights.

All: **Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes,
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.
We are pained by our own graceless hearts, our prayerless days, our poverty of love,
our slothfulness in discipleship, our sullied conscience,
our wasted hours, our unspent opportunities.**

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

Minister: We are blind while the light shines around us so take the scales from our eyes, grind to dust our heart of unbelief. Make it our highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you, sit like Mary at your feet, lean like John on you, appeal like Peter to your love, count like Paul all things refuse compared to you. We believe, help our unbelief.

All: **We are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings,
deeper than all our sin. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what
is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 6:6

“We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”

HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

Awake My Soul

©2002 Same Old Dress Music (ASCAP). Words and Music: Sandra McCracken.

1. The image of God invisible
The firstborn of all life
Before and within,
He holds it all in
One name, one faith, one Christ
2. I trust no other source or name
Nowhere else can I hide
This grace gives me fear,
and this grace draws me near
And all that it asks it provides

Bridge:

No seam in this garment
All my rags to hide
No less than Your love
For Jesus is mine

3. When I stand on the edges of Jordan
With the saints and the angels beside
When my body is healed
and the glory revealed
Then still I can boast only Christ

Chorus:

No one is good enough
To save himself
Awake my soul tonight
To boast nothing else

Mark 13:1-27

1 And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” **2** And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

3 And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, **4** “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” **5** And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. **6** Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. **7** And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. **8** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

9 “But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. **10** And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. **11** And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. **12** And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. **13** And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

14 “But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **15** Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, **16** and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. **17** And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! **18** Pray that it may not happen in winter. **19** For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. **20** And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. **21** And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. **22** For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. **23** But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, **25** and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26** And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. **27** And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Heal Us, Emmanuel

Words by William Cowper (alt Twit) | Music by Kevin Twit and Lucas Morton; © 2015

Chorus:

Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are
We long to feel Thy touch
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly
O Savior hear our cry

Our faith is feeble, we confess
We faintly trust Thy word
But will You pity us the less?
Be that far from You Lord!

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief
“Lord, I believe,” with tears he cried
“O help my unbelief!”

She, too, who touched you in the press
And healing virtue stole
Was answered, “Daughter, go in peace
Thy faith has made thee whole.”

Like her, with hopes and fears we come
To touch You if we may
O send us not despairing home
Send none unhealed away

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL & SENDING

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

Thanks be to God!