

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

October 25, 2020

Gathering to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Dee Hammond, *Pastor of Missions & Outreach*

The Song of Ascent *God's people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.*

Congregation *Reformation Hymn*

We will trust God's Word alone, where His perfect will is known;
Our traditions shift like sand while His Truth forever stands.

We will live by faith alone, clothed in merit not our own;
All we claim is Jesus Christ and His finished sacrifice.

Refrain: *Glory be, glory be to God alone
Through the church He redeemed and made His own.
He has freed us, He will keep us till we're safely home
Glory be, glory be to God alone!*

We are saved by grace alone—undeserved, yet freely shown;
No accomplishment on earth can achieve the second birth.

We will stand on Christ alone, the unyielding Cornerstone;
Nations rage and devils roar, still he reigns forevermore!

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Adoration of God

Call to Worship: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

— Romans 11.33-36

Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

Declaration of Truth: (Unison) *The Five Solas of the Reformation; Isaiah 40.8*

We believe that **Scripture alone** is our highest authority and our only rule of faith and practice.
We believe we are saved from our sins by **grace alone** through **faith alone** in **Jesus Christ alone**.
We believe we are saved and we are to live for the **glory of God alone**.
The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Hymns of Praise *In Christ Alone/The Solid Rock*

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.

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.

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.

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.

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My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

*Refrain: On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay.
When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

CMPC Mission and Family Life

Mission Moment

Pastoral Prayer

Our Gifts to God

The Gift of Music

Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offering

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Testimony *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*
(Children ages 3 through 3rd grade may be escorted to Children's Church)

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Proclaiming the Word of God

Reading of God's Word

Genesis 12.10-20

¹⁰Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹²and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake." ¹⁴When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels. ¹⁷But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go." ²⁰And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Pastor John

*When Saints Fall , or, Should We Cancel Abraham and Sarah?
Series:- Abraham & Sarah:: Walking By Faith—Genesis 12-25*

Our Response

Prayer of Application

Hymn of Response *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise,
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God:
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now, like a fetter, Bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
When I'm clothed in blood washed linen How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, Take my ransomed soul away;
Send Thine angels now to carry Me to realms of endless day.



Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA

cmpca.org

CMPC Sermon Notes for October 25, 2020

- **Series:** *Abraham & Sarah: Walking By Faith- Genesis 12-25*
- **Message:** *When Saints Fall, or, Should Abraham and Sarah Be Canceled?*
- **Text:** Genesis 12.10-20

Celebrity sins...

- Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Feinstei
 - Cancel culture is all the rage today
- Abraham and Sarah... Should they be canceled?
 - Slave owner, exploiter, colonialist, liar...
 - Let's look at their story....

What happened

- Famine in the land (archeology confirms)
 - Abraham and Sarah go to Egypt
- Failure to trust God and believe his promises
 - Really what sin is: not trusting God has our best in mind
- Lie/half-truth
 - Sarah is Abraham's half-sister
 - Hurrian culture: honors the sister
- Exploited his wife
 - Put her at risk
 - Sarah complicit: stays quiet
- Secret discovered
- Witness compromised: failure to be a blessing to the nations
- Acquired Hagar as a slave
 - Later, illicit relationship
 - Sarah complicit again

When our Heroes sin

- Abraham and Sarah: the good, the bad, and the ugly
- Discouraging

Our reaction

- Hysterical
 - Expecting/demanding perfection
 - Hypocrisy: finding the speck in the eyes of others and ignoring our own logs
 - What makes us think we are so perfect?
 - Astounding arrogance of the cancel culture

- Historical
 - Writing in the late 1800's, J. C. Ryle, in the foreword of his brief biography of George Whitefield, who was involved in slavery, cautions us on how we should view Christians of the past. "The story of Whitefield's times is one that should often be told. Without it, nobody is qualified to form an opinion either as to the man or his acts. Conduct that in one kind of times may seem rash, extravagant, and indiscreet, in another may be wise, prudent, and even absolutely necessary. In forming your opinion of the comparative merits of Christian men, never forget the old rule: 'Distinguish between times.' Place yourself in each man's position. Do not judge what was a right course of action in other times, by what seems a right course of action in your own."
 - People are product of their own times
 - Should we convict the people of the past that do not fit today's demands?

Record of sin

- Does God cancel Abraham and Sarah?
- Jesus doesn't cancel sinners who repent and trust in him. Jesus doesn't cancel sinners like George Whitefield: he cancels their sin.
- Samuel Sey, commenting on the University of Pennsylvania removing George Whitefield's statue: *"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."* ([Romans 4:7-8](#)) *That's why Jesus doesn't cancel sinners like George Whitefield. That's why Jesus doesn't cancel adulterers and murderers like King David. That's why Jesus doesn't cancel sinners like me. Jesus isn't embarrassed by any sinner. He isn't embarrassed by racists, adulterers, or murderers who believe in him. Jesus isn't embarrassed to call himself the Son of David. He isn't embarrassed to call himself the descendent of an adulterer and a murderer. That's the gospel George Whitefield preached. So, although his presence may not be welcomed anymore by sinners at the University of Pennsylvania, that's okay—his presence is welcomed forever by his sinless savior in heaven. Cancel culture says some sinners' names should be blotted out of history books. However, Christian culture—the gospel—says some sinners' names are inked by the blood of Jesus Christ in the book of life. This includes names of sinners like George Whitefield, King David, and Samuel Sey.*
- Grace
- Encouraging

Glory of God

- Our obsession with the glory of God because he is so amazingly forgiving
- God forgives
- I Corinthians 1.27-31

So What About Us?

- M.R. Conrad: God works in broken times through flawed people- people like us
- How will people view us?
 - Extending grace to others that God extends to us
- God's grace
 - Message of the Reformation
 - Always reforming the church according to God's word
 - Does not mean an attack on Biblical saints or the saints of history
 - Does mean how we move forward