



September 5, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus

A bruised reed he will
not break and a smoldering
wick he will not snuff out, till
he has brought justice
through to victory.

~Matthew 12:20



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymn of Proclamation

"Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King". Robinson/Mills

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism, Q/A #1

Song of Praise

"Lift My Eyes". Turner/Galbraith/Farren

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

Scripture Warning: Exodus 34:6-7

The Law of God

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: John 11:25-26

Song of Renewal: "Christ Will Be My Hideaway"

. . . Chester/Kauflin/Stiff/Zimmer/Hudson/Fuller

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: Mathew 12:18-21

Prayer

The Sermon

"Seeing and Delighting in Jesus"

Words of Institution

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn: "Cling to Christ". Hanson/Kauflin/LaChance

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"How Great is Your Love". Younker/Stanfill/Wickham

Benediction

Keep God's Promise Current, Near, and Dear

by Scotty Smith

"Don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom." Luke 12:32

Heavenly Father, what a comfort, hope, and everything-changer, this one little verse is. Thank you for your compassionate heart (You know our fears); intense joy (You're the original cheerful giver); and grand generosity (You make us—a small flock of lambs, the inheritors of your everlasting Kingdom).

Make this beautiful, bountiful, bodacious affirmation more real to *us* than ever—and especially to our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan, Iran, and North Korea.

As your beloved children—as Jesus' Bride, we aren't called to live as ingrown cloisters of anxiety, but as outward-loving communities of grace. Until Jesus returns, we are to share the Gospel and create beauty, be good neighbors and do excellent work, advocate for justice and extend your mercy.

Since the Fall, Satan's strategies have included creating fear with persecution, sleepiness with pampering, division with infighting, and distractions with anything possible. But since eternity, *your plan* has been to fill the earth with your glory, and populate it with a "little flock" from every nation and people group—as numerous as stars, sand, and dust. You have *not* changed your mind.

Our labors in the Lord will *never* be in vain. Your Kingdom has come in part, and it is barreling towards us in fullness. Hallelujah we shout, and Amen we pray, in Jesus' name.

God's Gracious Provision 8/29/2021

Attendance: 35

Offering: \$2222.00

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

If you have been buffeted by life (“a bruised reed”) or if you are weak in faith (“a smoldering wick”), be encouraged. Jesus did not come to snuff out anything that is weak but instead to fan the smoldering wick into a flame.

Who Should be Comforted with Jesus’s Words?

Jesus did not speak tenderly to everybody. The bruised reed and the smoldering wick are the penitent sinners who are crushed by circumstances or by their own failures. They are despairing of their own wisdom and resources to make anything worthwhile out of life.

3. Jesus will Persevere Until there is Victory

God promises that one day justice will come to victory. The tables will be turned. The meek shall inherit the earth. Those who mourn will be comforted (Matthew 5:4, 5). The weeds will be gathered and thrown into the fire and the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their father (Matthew 13:41–43).

Implications

- 1) **Jesus** is God's greatest delight. *Therefore*, if we want to see and hear what delights God, we should look at Jesus and listen to his teaching. And if we ever hope for God to delight in us, we must trust and obey Jesus and be filled with his Spirit.
- 2) **The spirit of Jesus' ministry** is a spirit of tenderness and forgiveness and healing for bruised reeds and smoldering wicks. He is only severe with the unrepentant and even then the way is open. *Therefore*, take heart, you are never beyond healing unless you are beyond humbling.
- 3) **The success of Jesus' struggle** is that he will triumph over all the forces which bruise reeds and quench wicks. *Therefore*, no matter how much it costs to follow him in this life, we **should set our hope only on him**. We were made to magnify the glory of Jesus Christ. We will never have fullness of joy unless we set our hope fully on him and follow his example.¹

¹MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2014). *John MacArthur Sermon Archive*. Panorama City, CA: Grace to You.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 11 6:00 P.M.

Prayer Dinner at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Saturday, September 18 8:00 A.M. Men’s Breakfast at the home of Pastor Rick

Sunday, September 19 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Hospitality Table – We are hoping to bring back the hospitality table on **Sunday mornings starting this month**. If you are interested in helping to set up the drinks and snacks, please let **Matt Deichert** know so he can get a list together of those who are willing to help.

Bring in your **Redner’s receipts**. For every \$5000 in receipts, Grace Covenant Youth Group receives \$50.00 back from Redner’s. Please give them to Barb Knarr.

Everyone is invited to join with the elders in prayer every Sunday from 9:30-10:00 in the back of the gym.

Below are groups working to support Afghans endangered by the Taliban takeover. These organizations are helping Afghan refugees who need transit after reaching other countries and those newly arriving in the United States. These are U.S.-led organizations with experience in this area and organizations also working to protect the country’s small Christian population. If you would like to support ministry in Afghanistan, please consider one of the following:

Global Leadership Development

9Marks

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

Morning Star Development

Refugee Memphis

World Relief

Prayer/Praise.September 5, 2021

- Pray for Ashley Adams who dislocated her knee and may need surgery. She is scheduled to begin a new job on Sept. 13. Pray for relief from pain and doctor's wisdom.
- Pray for Rindy Lee, who is in the process of job hunting. Pray that God will open a position with work-life balance, and that she finds child-care. Praise that God has kept Rindy and Noah in His Hands during this time.
- Pray for Matt Dawson, youth pastor in Eric Yensan's hometown church in Clarence, NY. Pray for healing from Covid.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's daughter, Danielle, who has an infection in her arm. Pray for healing for Danielle.
- Pray for Timmy Deichert, who has Covid. Pray for a quick recovery.
- Pray for Marcie Nettleton's stepdaughter Amy, who had breast cancer surgery on August 19th followed by 14 days of radiation. Pray for healing for Amy and God's wisdom for the doctors.
- Pray for George, ex-husband of Koreen Mace's friend. He is in rehab to recover from a hip replacement, is 89 and in poor health. Prayers for salvation for George and his daughter.
- Please continue to pray for Ken, the brother of Gwen Conrad's friend. He has Covid and is in the hospital trying to be weaned off a ventilator. Pray for God's healing for Ken.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' cousin Theresa's husband, who is regressing fast. Pray for his healing and God's guidance for Theresa's grandchildren.
- Praise that Margaret Henz, friend of Donna Jenkins, is still doing okay.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' friend, Debbie Breyer, who is back in the hospital. She has congestive heart failure.
- Praise God that Donna Jenkins' great nephew is home.
- Pray for Mandi Yensan's friend, Tammy Ruth, who has been fighting lung cancer the last five years. Praise God she is a believer.
- Pray for the sister of Devon, friend of Jill Aument. She can't get rid of a C-section infection. Pray for wisdom for the doctors to find an antibiotic that works.
- Pray for Jill Aument's cousin, Craig, who is struggling with depression and will not talk with anyone. Craig is not a believer. Pray for God's Divine intervention for Craig.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, as he begins the next chapter of his journey toward healing next week as he moves to Shriner's Hospital rehab. Pray for mental, physical, and spiritual health for Austin and his family.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' friend, Lynn Rhoades. While she was given a blood transfusion, she went into anaphylactic shock and had heart compressions and shock treatments to bring her back to life! Praise and prayers for Lynn's resuscitation and for healing.
- Pray for Christopher, son of Susan and Glen Williams. Pray that he is freed from his addiction and that most importantly, he finds that Jesus is his only hope.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak, friend of Barb Knarr. After completing 2 more treatments for bladder cancer, he will be reevaluated. Pray for a good result.
- Pray for Denny's 13-year-old nephew, Evan Kadyka, with kidney issues. Pray that a suitable kidney becomes available for a transplant.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus

Matthew 12:18–21 (ESV)

"Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; ²⁰a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; ²¹and in his name the Gentiles will hope."

The Setting

The Pharisees have just taken counsel to kill Jesus for healing a man on the Sabbath (v. 14). Instead of taking up arms to protect himself and establish his kingdom by force, Jesus quietly withdraws.

1. Chosen for a Special Task

Jesus was begotten from all eternity the only One who could bring hope to a lost world. Christ came into the world as the eternally chosen one. Jesus is not just chosen; he is also loved. "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved."

2. The Spirit of Jesus' Ministry

Jesus Christ holds the most privileged position in the universe. He has absolute authority over every creature. If any ruler ever had a right to reclaim his own kingdom by force of arms and battle shouts, it was Jesus Christ. But when God anointed him with the Holy Spirit, the result was very different from that. "He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets." He will not deal with his enemies now by desperate quarreling or loud disputes or uproars in the streets. When the river of your life runs deep, the waters can be peaceful.

The spirit of the ministry of Jesus is the spirit of tenderness with people who are broken and weak.