

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

October 15, 2017
Six O'clock

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Heavenly Father, Scripture contradicts everything we assume about the way life is "supposed to work". We expect to get what's coming to us. We demand fairness--an honest return for our labor, time, and sweat. But the gospel flies in the face of conventionality, predictability, and normalcy. Hallelujah!

Thank you for not being "fair" with us. Thank you for being outrageously generous, immeasurably kind, and scandalously good. What we could never earn--your perfect righteousness, you've credited to us as a gift. What we fully deserve--to be dealt with according to the wages of our sin, you'll never do so. What we cannot imagine--that you'd justify ungodly people (like us), you've done, legally, righteously, and joyfully.

Because of Jesus' once-and-for-all finished work, our sins are once-and-for-all forgiven, never to be remembered against us. King David called such people "Blessed"; we call them (us) immeasurably rich and beloved.

Thank you for reconciling us to yourself through Jesus, and for placing us in your now-and-forever favor. Thank you for, not only removing all condemnation for our sins, but for replacing deserved judgment with exuberant jubilation.

Thank you for not just welcoming us, but for wanting us; not just being "okay" with us, but "smitten" with us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, drive the gospel--this gospel, deeper and deeper into our hearts. It's the only gospel that will free us to live and love to your glory. May our grateful joy be equaled by our obedient love. So very Amen we pray, in Jesus' trustworthy and triumphant name. (*365 Everyday Prayers*, Scotty Smith)

Call to Worship Romans 4:4-8

Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "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."

InvocationRev. Ben Griffith

Hymn 164..... O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Responsive Reading Philippians 3:8-14

MINISTER: Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

PEOPLE: **For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—**

MINISTER: -- that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

PEOPLE: **Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.**

ALL: **Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

Hymn 521.....My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
(Children will be dismissed to 4 Corners on last verse.)

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading..... Romans 3:21-26

SermonRev. Ben Griffith
"Right With God"

Hymn (printed on back) In Christ Alone

Benediction

Postlude

Hymn “In Christ Alone” Getty/Townend

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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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI