

GOOD HOPE

Presbyterian Church

March 8, 2020

ESTHER

Good Hope strives to be a Christ-centered community,
loving God and loving people.

Lord's Day Morning

PRELUDE

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60:1–3

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

HYMN 115

All Creatures of Our God and King
(As you are able, let us stand to sing hymns)

PRAYER OF PRAISE

“Lord, High and Holy, Meek and Lowly, You have brought us to the valley of vision, where we live in the depths but see You in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin, we behold Your glory. Let us learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that valley is the place of vision. Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells, and the deeper the wells the brighter Your stars shine. Let us find Your light in our darkness, Your life in our death, Your joy in our sorrow, Your grace in our sin, Your riches in our poverty, Your glory in our valley.”

Adapted from the Valley of Vision

HYMN

No Eye Has Seen

No eye has seen and no ear has heard
And no mind has ever conceived
The glorious things that You have prepared
For everyone who has believed;
You brought us near and You called us Your own
And made us joint heirs with Your Son!

Chorus:

*How high and how wide, how deep and how long,
How sweet and how strong is Your love,
How lavish Your grace, how faithful Your ways,
How great is Your love, O Lord.*

Objects of mercy who should have known wrath,
We're filled with unspeakable joy,
Riches of wisdom, unsearchable wealth,
And the wonder of knowing Your voice.
You are our treasure and our great reward.
Our hope and our glorious King.

Chorus

RESPONSIVE READING

Jeremiah 29:1–13

Leader: “These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiyah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

People: But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Leader: For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in My name;

I did not send them, declares the Lord. 'For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you My promise and bring you back to this place.

People: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.'”

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *And Can It Be* Bob Kauflin
Good Hope Men's Choir

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain? For me who scorned His perfect love?

Amazing love, how can it be, that You, my God, would die for me?

You left your Father's throne above, so free and infinite Your grace.
Emptied Yourself (so great Your love), and bled for Adam's helpless race.

Boldly I come before Your throne to claim Your mercy immense and free.
No greater love will e'er be known, for, O, my God, it found out me.

CHILDREN'S STORY

(Children ages 3 and under may be dismissed to the nursery)

HYMN *May the Peoples Praise You*

You have called us out of darkest night into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ

May our every breath retell the grace that broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy; with endless life

Chorus:

*May the peoples praise You; let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes that we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus*

All the earth is Yours and all within; each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You to make Christ known

May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace to spread Your Word

Chorus:

*May the peoples praise You; let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes that we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus*

This our holy privilege to declare Your praises and Your name
To every nation, tribe and tongue, Your church proclaims

Chorus

Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
All creation praise Your glorious Name

Chorus

THE LORD'S PRAYER AND PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

“Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

HYMN 666 *In Silence My Soul Is Waiting* (verses 1, 4, 5, 8)

(Children ages 4 to 8 may be dismissed to Children's Church)

SERMON PASSAGE Esther 2
(page 520, blue Bible)

SERMON *Undercover???*

HYMN 699 *Like a River Glorious*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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