

WORSHIP for August 30, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) To watch sermons recorded on Zoom on our YouTube Channel, go to the FPCP website: <https://www.fpcpataskala.com/> and click on WORSHIP or follow us on Facebook from the homepage. To potentially increase subscribers & views,  like and  share!
- 2) Also please invite family or friends, who want to join us for live worship on Sundays @10:45am, to request access by emailing their name, email, & phone number to janetann386@gmail.com
- 3) Please Remember to Send in Your Giving in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Active members please consider contributing \$37.75 toward annual per capita.

*Prelude played by Brent Miller, "Picture This," Streaming CCLI 20373701;
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https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EogrjEYM2i2YuXKKcRgzQIU_BkPYJkrj*

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:19, 22-24a *Responsively*
*Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens, you who have done great things.
Who is like you, God.*

I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, my God;

I will sing praise to you with the lyre, Holy One of Israel.

My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you – I whom you have delivered.

My tongue will tell of your righteous acts all day long...

Opening Hymn: "To God Be the Glory"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CeBoSQsBR0>

Prayer of Confession: *Unison*

I confess, O Lord, my mouth that should be filled with praise and proclamation to declare you for generations to come is often silent or my tongue is busy with complaint. Forgive this my sin, O God. Amen. *(Pause for a time of silent confession.)*

Assurance of Forgiveness: Psalm 71:15 *Responsively*

*"My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of you saving acts all day long
– though I know not how to relate them all." We believe the good news of the gospel.*

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

"The Gloria Patri"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU

Hymn of Preparation: "Immortal, Invisible"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l_VwA4d44g

Call to God's Word: *Unison*

"Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?" John 10:35 & Romans 4:3.

Prayer for Illumination: *Unison*

Lord, through your Spirit enable us to consider your Word, and to enact it in our lives to bring you glory and praise. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:14-27 (NIV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+17%3A14-27&version=NIV>

SERMON: “Faith as Small as a Mustard Seed” by *The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford*

Watch sermon on: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAdy2hvW6PL93B6hbgswTxf93Evs575yd>



Picture this. Ever marvel at the tenacity of plants that push themselves up through cracks in sidewalks? Such is the case of mustard plants, that push between the limestone rocks comprising the Arbel cliffs on the SW shore of the sea of Galilee. The strength and tenacity of these plants literally move mountains, pushing rocks further and further apart, with the possibility of causing some to fall into the sea.

Picture this. The Arbel cliffs, not mentioned by name in Scripture, are on the route to Jesus’ boyhood home of Nazareth and Mount Tabor in the west. These cliffs were a frequent stopping place for Jesus to teach in parables. They may well have been the site that Jesus had in mind for the parable of the mustard seed, the centerpiece of today’s passage to teach about the necessity of faith in ministry, prayer, healing and for provision. Faith as we have already heard in multiple passages and sermons before today is the primary topic of Jesus in conjunction with the kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven.

Today’s passages start after Jesus’ transfiguration. Immediately following Jesus is asked to heal the demon-possessed son of a man, a similar account to the Gentile woman & her daughter in the region of Tyre and Sidon. Jesus disciples, who had not gone with him to the mountain for his transfiguration, contrary to the daughter of the Gentile woman, at least tried to heal the boy, but could not. After Jesus healed the boy, the disciples ask why they couldn’t. As his latest episodes of teaching get the disciples ready to carry on without him, Jesus again addresses the issue of their lack of faith.

When the disciples question as to why they could not heal the boy. Jesus’ response is a short parable in vv. 20-21. “He replied, ‘Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’”

To demonstrate faith, in today’s 3rd passage Jesus instructs Peter how to get money to pay the required temple tax. He tells Peter to go to the lake and to throw out his line. Peter is then to open the mouth of the 1st fish caught to find the coin necessary to pay the tax for Jesus & Peter. We don’t hear the outcome of the advise, but in faith Peter likely obeyed & the tax

was paid.

In today's 2nd passage, Jesus prophesies of a time that will require great faith of the disciples. For the 2nd time, the 1st being after John the Baptist was killed by Herod & at Caesarea Philippi when Peter confessed Jesus to be the Messiah & the Son of the Living God, Jesus speaks of his impending death.

Now Jesus and his disciples begin their journey to Jerusalem. In Mt 20 before entering Jerusalem Jesus speaks again of his impending death. Picture this: Jerusalem is built of limestone, like that through which the mustard seed plants grow on the Arbel cliffs. In Jerusalem, faith will be challenged, as his disciples watch Jesus die, the One whom they know to be the Messiah.

But like the mustard plants on the Arbel cliffs could not be held back from life by the limestone of the mountain, neither could death nor tombstone hold back the resurrection of Jesus. For at his resurrection, the stone is rolled away, mountains move, & the living Son of the living God, Jesus, emerges from the tomb in the power of the Holy Spirit. And that same Spirit who raises Jesus from the dead comes to raise faith in Christ in us. That same Spirit who lives in us can now plant in us a seed of mountain moving faith, to show forth the kingdom.

But before his death, after Jesus enters Jerusalem, in Mt 21 Jesus pronounces a version of the parable of the mustard seed a 2nd time. In v. 21 Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt,... you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,'" and it will be done. Then in v. 22 Jesus reveals the context for faith to manifest. "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Prayers of faith are an important component of advancing the kingdom. This is an upcoming topic of our Wednesday class on the work of the Holy Spirit's power.

In faith we pray for God to act, to move mountains, to heal, to provide. Some of the greatest prayers of faith come in the Psalms. Jesus in faith prayed the Psalms in his times of need. For example, he prayed psalm 22 when he was dying on the cross.

David wrote many of the Psalms before he became king. He needed faith, because although he was anointed by Samuel as king to replace Saul, Saul sought to kill him because of his anointing. A number of the Psalms were written when David was praying for God to protect him from Saul. Later in David's life, Absalom, his own son, sought to kill David. David wrote and prayed Psalms during this time, too. David prayed out of faith, because he was sure that God who is faithful would help him. We need to have faith & to pray for God to help us, too. When life is threatened or lost. When there are broken relationships & times of betrayal. When hope seems lost. Our call to worship was from Psalm 71. This Psalm is a great prayer of faith. Hear it in its entirety now. Recently we have prayed others like it: Psalm 18, 77, & 23!

Prayers of faith bring protection, like to David. Healing, like to the boy in today's first passage. Prayers of faith also bring provision, like thru the fish with the 4 drachma coin in today's 3rd passage. Prayers of faith can bring provision for us. (*Pastor's account of her seminary scholarship.*)

We can have faith because God is faithful. Jesus is faithful. Hear of Jesus at his 2nd coming in Rev 19:11-16. Faith is powerful. Faith is able to move mountains. Nothing is impossible with faith. In faith, pray & believe.

Hymn of Response: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liQzzc41z5Q>

PRAYERS OF JOYS & CONCERNS, FOLLOWED BY THE LORD'S PRAYER: *Unison*

Send requests to Pastor Janet's email janetann386@gmail.com or call or text 412-877-8310.

PRAYERS OF JOY for:

- Those celebrating **birthdays and anniversaries**.
(Look in back of church directory to send cards and to extend blessings and prayers.)

PRAYERS OF CONCERNS for:

- **Revival** to enable the Church to fulfill our call of witness. Increase of **faith**, and renewed devotion to **prayer**.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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, forever. Amen.

Please Continue to Give in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Prayer Of Dedication: *Unison*

God, in view of your mercy help us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you, O God. Amen. *Romans 12:1*

Doxology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpXWF15avU>

Closing Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD4B9Q6nTo0>

Benediction: *Responsively*

Go, in the name of Jesus, with faith provided by the Holy Spirit, to move mountains in will with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

TABLE TALK

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20b

For what do you need mountain moving faith?