

*New Covenant Presbyterian Church - PCA*

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February 10, 2013

Prelude

Choral Introit

Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship

\*Hymn No. 262 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

\*Invocation

Scripture Reading Luke 1:57-66

Sermon Introduced: Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor  
Mercy Defined

Anthem

\*Doxology

Sermon Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

***LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF MERCY***

Joy — Obedience — Forgiveness

\*Hymn No. 43 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Offering of Thanks and Praise

Offertory

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 2 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (verse 1)

Sermon Concluded and Applied

The Results of God's Mercy  
Application

Song of Response

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction No. 338 *At Calvary* (vs. 4)

Postlude

***LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF MERCY***

Luke 1:57-66

**Mercy Defined:** A divine quality by which God faithfully keeps his promises and maintains his covenant relationship with his chosen people despite their unworthiness and unfaithfulness (Tyndale Bible Dictionary)

**Grace:** God gives us what we don't deserve.

**Mercy:** God does not give us what we do deserve.

- I. God's mercy produces joy. (1:57-58)
  - A. Joy as we tell others about God's mercy.
  - B. Joy as we hear how God has shown mercy to others..
- II. God's mercy encourages obedience. (1:59-63)
  - A. Obedience Applied
  - B. Obedience Tested
  - C. Obedience Confirmed
- III. God's mercy reveals forgiveness by removing the punishment. (64)
- IV. God's mercy results in outreach (65-66)
  - A. Neighbors filled with awe.
  - B. People in the area begin to talk.
  - C. Those who hear began to wonder
  - D. Everyone begins to think
- V. God's mercy produces great expectations for more mercy. (*A reason for hope.*) (66)

***APPLICATION:***

1. I know we all appreciate God's mercy.
2. But, do we also know that God expects us **to be merciful?**
3. As we live in the ***Shadow of Mercy***, we must remember that the Lord God Almighty, who is Holy, Holy, Holy, who is truly worthy of our worship .... desires from us mercy, even more than sacrifice. (*Or, God does not hear our worship if we fail to be merciful to one another.*)

Prelude  
Choral Introit  
Welcome and Announcements  
The Call to Worship

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another:

**"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory."**

<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

P: This morning we gather together in the presence of the Lord, who is holy, He is the Lord Almighty. The whole earth is full of His glory.

**C: But we are unholy, we are a people of unclean lips, we live among people of unclean lips.**

P: <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 4:2-5).

**C: We gather together today to worship the Lord God Almighty. We are thankful for His mercy ...we are humbled by His grace. May we remember as we bring our sacrifice of praise today that God is holy, He is worthy of our worship, He is**

**worthy of our praise. Yet, He calls us to be a people who are merciful, for He desires mercy, not sacrifice. (Matthew 9:13)**

\*Hymn No. 262

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Tho the darkness hide Thee,  
Tho the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see.  
Only Thou art holy—there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

\*Invocation

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:57-66

<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."

<sup>61</sup> They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak,

praising God. <sup>65</sup> The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

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Sermon  
***LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF MERCY***

Joy — Obedience — Forgiveness

\*Hymn No. 43 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not:  
As thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness to  
Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Chorus: (see above)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Chorus: (see above)

Offering of Thanks and Praise

Offertory

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 2 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (verse 1)

Come, Thou Fount of every 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 His name – I’m fixed upon it –  
Name of God’s redeeming love.

Sermon continued

The Results of God’s Mercy  
Application

Song of Response

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction No. 338 *At Calvary* (vs. 4)  
O the love that drew salvation’s plan! O the grace that bro’t it  
down to man! O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!  
*Mercy there was great, and grace was free; pardon there was  
multiplied to me. There my burdened soul found liberty  
—at Calvary*

Postlude