

New Covenant Presbyterian Church - PCA

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

The Call to Worship Jeremiah 9:23-24

*Hymn No. 18 *Come, We that Love the Lord*

*Invocation

Responsive Reading

The Anthem

*Doxology

NT Scripture Reading Luke 23:13-25

Morning Sermon Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

A SNAPSHOT OF GRACE

*Hymn No. 371 *A Mighty Fortress Is our God*

The Offering

Offertory

Sermon Continued

The Worse ... and BEST ... Trade Ever Made

Morning Prayer

*Hymn No. 438 *Cleanse Me* (verse 1)

Sermon Applied

God's Grace Shines!

Song of Response

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction No. 29 *Glorify Thy Name* (vs. 1)

Father, we love You, we worship and adore You,

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

*Postlude

Mr. Don Reasons

Lessons Learned Through Trials: (Luke 22:66-23:25)

Trial 1: Prejudice results in not seeing the truth. [22:66-71]

Trial 2: Godly character is evident to all ... even those who stand in opposition to us. [23:1-7]

Trial 3: We never get what we truly desire when we turn to Jesus with self-centered motives.[23:8-12]

Trial 4: A Snap Shot of Grace: The innocent condemned ... the guilty set free. [23:13-25]

A SNAPSHOT OF GRACE

Luke 23:13-25

- I. Jesus stands before Pilate a second time:
 - A. Private conversation ... as recorded in John 18:33-38
 1. Jesus - "I have come to bear witness to the truth."
 2. Pilate - "What is truth?"
 - B. Pilate finds no fault in Jesus. (Before the chief priests, the rulers and the people)
 1. "I find no basis for your charges" (People "Away with this man!")
 2. Pilate (wanting to release Jesus) appealed again to the people. (People responded "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!")
 3. Pilate (third time) for what crime? (People demanded that Jesus be crucified)
- II. The verdict: (The Worse ... and **BEST** ... trades ever made.)
 - A. The guilty was released (Barabbas – arrested for insurrection and murder).
 - B. Jesus was surrendered to the will of the people.
- III. The application - Grace shines brightly even behind the shadows of untruth.
 - A. God's grace shines through the 'will' of sinful people.
 - B. God's grace transcends the logic ('mind') of sinful people.
 - C. God's grace observed leaves us with the question:

"What is truth?"

The answer is found when we first ask the question: 'Who' is truth?

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

The Call to Worship Jeremiah 9:23-24

²³ This is what the LORD says:

“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
or the strong man boast of his strength
or the rich man boast of his riches,

²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this:
that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,”

declares the LORD.

*Hymn No. 18 *Come, We that Love the Lord*

Come we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.

Let those refuse to sing, Who never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King May speak their joys abroad.

The men of grace have found, Glory begun below;
Celestial fruit on earthly ground ~ From faith and hope may grow.

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets.
Before we reach the heavenly fields, Or walk the golden streets.

Then let our songs abound, And every tear be dry;
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
To fairer worlds on high.

*Invocation

Responsive Reading

P: Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you

free.”

C: **We have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?**

P: I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. (John 8:31-38)

C: **Yes, all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.** (Romans 3:23)

P: The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)

C: **But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.** (Romans 6:23)

P: Yes, we gather together this morning to worship Jesus – who is the way, the truth, and the life ... No one comes to the Father except through Him. (John 14:6)

C: **God our Savior ... who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—** (1 Timothy 2:3-6)

P: This morning may we step out of the shadows of lies and the fog of deceit and into the wonderful light of God's grace and truth.

The Anthem

*Doxology

NT Scripture Reading Luke 23:13-25

¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

¹⁸ With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

²² For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this

man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

Morning Sermon

Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

A SNAPSHOT OF GRACE

*Hymn No. 371 *A Mighty Fortress Is our God*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe—
His craft and pow’r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God’s own
choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He—
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same—
and He must win the battle.

And tho this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed **His truth** to triumph thru us.
The prince of darkness grim—we tremble not for Him;
His rage we can endure; for lo! his doom is sure—
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow’rs—no thanks to them—abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours thru Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; **God’s truth abideth still**—
His kingdom is forever.

The Offering
Offertory

Sermon Continued

The Worse ... and BEST ... Trade Ever Made

Morning Prayer

*Hymn No. 438 *Cleanse Me* (verse 1)

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

Sermon Applied

God’s Grace Shines!

Song of Response

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction No. 29 *Glorify Thy Name* (vs. 1)

Father, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

*Postlude

Mr. Don Reasons

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

The Call to Worship Jeremiah 9:23-24

²³ This is what the LORD says:

“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
or the strong man boast of his strength
or the rich man boast of his riches,

²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this:
that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,”

declares the LORD.

*Hymn No. 25 *Immortal, Invisible*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious—Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting,
nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest—to both great and small;
in all life Thou livest—the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render — O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

*Invocation

Responsive Reading Psalm 1

P: ¹Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the

wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

C: **²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

P: ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

C: **⁴Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.**

P: ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

C: **⁶For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

P: Help us today Lord to see you with greater clarity. Give us the capacity to love you more dearly. Help us draw close to You so that we can walk with You more nearly.

The Anthem

The Doxology

Scripture Reading Luke 23:8-12

⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

The Sermon

Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

THE SPIRITUAL FORK IN OUR ROAD

Luke 23:8-12

Self-centered Motivation
+ Negative Peer Pressure
Self-destruction

*Hymn No. 56

Day By Day

Day by day and with each passing moment,
strength I find to meet my trials here;
trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
gives unto each day what He deems best—
lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
mingling toil with peace and rest.

Ev'ry day the Lord Himself is near me
with a special mercy for each hour;
all my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He whose name is Counsellor and Pow'r.
The protection of His child and treasure
is a charge that on Himself He laid:
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
this the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in every tribulation,
So to trust Your promises, O Lord!
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation
offered me within Your holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
'Till I reach the promised land.

Offering of Thanks and Praise

Offertory

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 55

Day By Day

Mr. Don Reasons

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray. To see
Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly. Day by day.

Sermon applied

Psalm 1

See ... *More Clearly*~Love... *More Dearly*~Follow ... *More Nearly*

Song of Response

Mr. Devon Hamilton

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction No. 358 *I Am Thine, O Lord* *refrain*

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious bleeding side.

*Postlude

Mr. Don Reasons

P: Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

C: We have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?

P: I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. (John 8:31-38)

C: Yes, all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

P: The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)

C: But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

P: Yes, we gather together this morning to worship Jesus – who is the way, the truth, and the life ... No one comes to the Father except through Him. (John 14:6)

C: God our Savior ... who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men— (1 Timothy 2:3-6)

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