

Veritas Presbyterian Church

April 16, 2023

Reflections

For He did not come to reward the rewardable, improve the improvable, or correct the correctable. Jesus came to raise the dead.

Robert Farrar Capon
from *Kingdom, Grace, Judgement*

I know of no other God except the one called Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther

No one has yet discovered the word Jesus ought not to have said, none suggested the better word he might have said... None has fallen short of the ideal. He is full of surprises, but they are all the surprises of perfection.... You are ever amazed that he is incomparably better than you could have expected. He is tender without being weak, strong without being coarse, lowly without being servile. He has conviction without intolerance, enthusiasm without fanaticism, holiness without Pharisaism, passion without prejudice. This man alone never made a false step, never struck a jarring note. His life alone moved on those high levels where local limitations are transcended and the absolute Law of Moral Beauty prevails. It was life at its Highest.

John Watson
from *The Mind of the Master*

(The priest Tikhon speaks)there are no words or thoughts in human language to express all the ways and reason of the Lamb “until His ways are openly revealed to us.” Who can embrace Him who is unembraceable, who can grasp the whole of Him who is infinite?

Fyodor Dostoevsky
from *Demons*

That one name. Jesus Christ.

Fleming Rutledge
From a Sermon, *That One Man*

Call to Worship Adapted from 1st Peter 1:3-5

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: **According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**

Leader: To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you!

Alleluia! He is risen!

People: **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

Hymn of Praise: Come, Thou Almighty King

Come, Thou Almighty King

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May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Cor. 13:14

1. Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing,
 2. Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword,
 3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4. To the great One in Three e - ter - nal prais - es be,

help us to praise. Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour. Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in
 hence ev - er - more. His sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in

to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Word suc - cess; Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Confession of Sin

Scripture Reading James 2:10, Matthew 5:20

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Corporate Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins together.

All:

Almighty, eternal, most just and gracious God, help us to know that all things are shadows, but you are substance; all things are quicksand, but you are mountain; all things are shifting, but you are anchor; all things are ignorance, but you are wisdom. You are thrice holy, yet my life abounds with apologies not made, repentance not completed, forgiveness not offered, brothers not respected, reputations not defended, peace not pursued, neighbors not loved, Sabbaths not kept, appetites not restrained, parents not honored, spouses not cherished, children not trained, prisoners not visited, strangers not clothed, hungry not fed, providences ignored, envy unchecked, prayers unspoken, fears not conquered, truth not defended, sheep not fed, feet unmoved, tongues unbridled, eyes unguarded, time wasted, talents wasted, treasure wasted. Lord Jesus, deliver me from these chains, from the wretchedness of the old ways that still hang on, from the sugar of sin as well as its gall, so that with earnest heart searching I may come to you, cast myself on you, trust in you, cry to you and be delivered by you.

Prayer of confession from the 31st General Assembly of the PCA

Silent Reflection and Confession

Words of Assurance and the Peace of God Romans 8:31-32

Leader: What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? May the peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Hymn of Response: It is Well with My Soul

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It Is Well with My Soul

*The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7*

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -
3. My sin— O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!—my sin, not in
4. O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled

sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,

“It is well, it is well with my soul.”
and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well
“E - ven so”— it is well with my soul.

with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.
with my soul;

Affirmation of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism Question and Answer 45

Leader: How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

All: First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life. And third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.

Hymn: Gloria Patria

Prayer of Intercession

Hymn: How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place

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How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place

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A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. Luke 14:16

1. How sweet and awe - some is the place
 2. While all our hearts and all our songs
 3. "Why was I made to hear your voice,
 4. 'Twas the same love that spread the feast

with Christ with - in the doors, while ev - er - last - ing
 join to ad - mire the feast, each of us cries, with
 and en - ter while there's room, when thou - sands make a
 that sweet - ly drew us in; else we had still re -

love dis - plays the choic - est of her stores.
 thank - ful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?
 wretch - ed choice, and rath - er starve than come?"
 fused to taste, and per - ished in our sin.

5. Pity the nations, O our God,
 constrain the earth to come;
 send your victorious Word abroad,
 and bring the strangers home.
6. We long to see your churches full,
 that all the chosen race
 may, with one voice and heart and soul,
 sing your redeeming grace.

Preaching of the Word

Scripture: John 2:12-22

**Sermon: The Exclusive Christ
Rev. Drew Heurion**

Hymn: All the Way My Savior Leads Me
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All the Way My Savior Leads Me

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He goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.
John 10:4

1. All the way my Sav-ior leads me; what have I to ask be-side?
 2. All the way my Sav-ior leads me, cheers each wind-ing path I tread,
 3. All the way my Sav-ior leads me— O the ful-ness of his love!

Can I doubt his ten-der mer-cy, who through life has been my guide?
 gives me grace for ev-'ry tri-al, feeds me with the liv-ing bread.
 Per-fect rest to me is prom-ised in my Fa-ther's house a-bove:

Heav'n-ly peace, di-vin-est com-fort, here by faith in him to dwell;
 Though my wea-ry steps may fal-ter, and my soul a-thirst may be,
 when my spir-it, clothed, im-mor-tal, wings its flight to realms of day,

for I know, what-e'er be-fall me, Je-sus do-eth all things well; well.
 gush-ing from the rock be-fore me, lo, a spring of joy I see; see!
 this my song through end-less a-ges: Je-sus led me all the way; way!

Benediction

From Jude 24-25

Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Father, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen.