

Psalm 34: 1-8

¹I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

²My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

⁵Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

The Word of life

THANKS BE TO GOD

The answer must be, I think, that beauty and grace are performed whether or not we will or sense them. The least we can do is try to be there.

Annie Dillard

If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Today may we ponder what it feels like to say our souls “make their boast in the Lord.”

There’s something determined and defiant in that word “boast.”

Determined and defiant.

When Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13 that “love endures all,” I think he’s feeling what the Psalmist is feeling here when he says his soul makes its boast in the Lord.

When Jesus in the upper room, as described in John’s Gospel says that “in the world we will have trouble but take heart, I have overcome the world,” I think he’s feeling what the Psalmist is feeling here when he says his soul makes its boast in the Lord.

Hundreds of people with candles yesterday in the Squirrel Hill Neighborhood of Pittsburgh were feeling what the Psalmist is feeling here when he says his soul makes its boast in the Lord.

There’s something determined and defiant in that word “boast.”

Let’s unpack these feelings a bit.

Because determined and defiant can sometimes not be a good thing. The shooter yesterday was determined and defiant. The crucial missing piece, however, from the shooter’s determination and defiance and the determination and defiance of the Psalmist making his boast in the Lord, and Paul, and Jesus, and those keeping vigil in Pittsburgh, is happiness.

“... the Lord is good. Happy are those who take refuge in him.” Verse 8

We are not talking here about the happiness of Boston Red Sox fans right now. They are very close to a big parade. We, of all people, should know that that kind of sugar high happiness is fleeting. Wonderful but fleeting.

The happiness the Psalmist is talking about, the happiness the Bible is talking about, is something we might describe as a permanent, ever abiding, soulful certainty that nothing can separate us from the love of God and that “where sin abounds grace abounds all the more.”

And so our souls make their boast in the Lord, with determination and defiance, from a place deep within us, of ever abiding happiness. Not glib cheerfulness. But soulful serenity and hope.

Tragedy will shake this ever abiding happiness. It can never uproot it. It can never destroy it.

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never mastered it.”

These are words from John’s Gospel....his soul is making its boast. Determined and defiant.

“His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Let the humble hear, and be glad.”

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never mastered it.

“Look to him, and be radiant.”

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD-GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

October 28, 2018

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Wondrous Worker of Wonders we praise you!

NOT ALONE FOR WHAT HAS BEEN, OR FOR WHAT IS

But for what is yet to be

FOR YOU ARE GRACIOUS BEYOND ALL TELLING OF IT.

Lighting of the Candles

"Blessed are the clear in heart..."

Matthew 5

90 Come Christians Join to Sing

We Welcome One Another as Christ

"As the Deer" NOCC Jubilation Ringers

The Morning Prayer and Choral Response

"Earth, teach me stillness..."

Ute Prayer

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Love Creating, Grace Abounding, Peace Abiding

PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE YOUR WORD, AMEN

THE LESSON PSALM 34: 1-8

The Meditation "Making our Boast" Rev. Rob Carr

Love us from the inside out Lord.

Take the thoughts we hide deep inside, and purify them with the fire of your Spirit.

Take the roots of our mistrust, and deaden their hold on our lives.

Take the hope you have planted in us, and nourish it in the love of these your people.

Ignite your love in us, and set us free to announce the Kingdom, Amen.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

"Give Thanks" NOCC Jubilation Ringers

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

523 Live in Charity 3X

Aware of our imperfections, God of grace
WE COME ASKING THAT YOU SHAPE AND MOLD US
Move us to choose the difficult right
RATHER THAN THE EASIER WRONG

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

As we partake of this holy meal
FILL US WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT
That we may together take up the form and image of Christ
TO CALL YOUR SPLINTERED CREATION TOGETHER AGAIN

The Communion Prayer
The Lord's 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.
The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation
Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option
Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

433 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord
**AND TO LIVE OUR LIVES SO THAT THOSE TO WHOM LOVE IS A STRANGER
WILL FIND IN US GENEROUS FRIENDS**

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!
SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE
WE WALK HUMBLLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY
We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available before and after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook and these websites
www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

Today 5-7PM TRUNK OR TREAT WITH CHILI!

Monday 6PM Troop 900

Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group

Tuesday 6PM Pack 900

Thursday 6PM Girl Scouts

Thursday 7PM Website Expansion Team

Saturday 745AM Men's Breakfast at Kate's

Saturday 830AM Northland Justice Coalition @ First Baptist in Liberty 336 Gallatin
Addressing Pre-K education and predatory lending

Saturday 9AM Centering Prayer

Next Sunday Following Worship Community Life Ministry Team Planning---all welcome

UPCOMING

TALL OAKS GALA AT ARROWHEAD---JOIN US!

It's time to RESERVE your seat for the 2018 Tall Oaks Masquerade Gala! The evening of November 9th at Arrowhead Stadium North Club will be full of fellowship, food, auctions, and the magic of whimsical disguise. Your presence is primary to the support of a unique ministry and the future evolution of Tall Oaks for children and the community. Plan on having a fun night! Don't forget your mask! Don't forget to sign up!

Sunday November 11 Celebrating Volunteers

Sunday November 11 Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness 5PM

Wednesday November 14 Vital Conversations 1PM

Friday November 16 STRUM at Westport Presbyterian Arts Series 12noon

Sunday November 18 NOCC Community Thanksgiving Pot Luck Following Worship

Sunday December 2 Congregational Meeting Following Worship

Sunday December 9 5PM Talent Show

KEVIN KELLEY NEEDS STUDENTS

Rob has been training a cohort of people this year to present workshops on Centering Prayer. Our former beloved seminary intern Kevin Kelly is in the cohort. After several training experiences and lots of reading, Kevin is ready for his final test. He needs to do a three hour presentation on centering prayer to a group of willing folks while Rob observes. Would you be willing to be part of his "test audience?" Saturday February 9 2019 9AM to noon at NOCC. Our centering prayer "veterans" are welcome to attend plus people who have decided it's time to learn what centering prayer is all about. Even if you are not interested in centering prayer but want to be helpful to Kevin---please come.

Contact Rob with your interest. Child care available if needed.

SOWING A SEED-GROWING OUR VISION 2016-2018

Our campaign prayer: We want what you want God. Open each heart and mind to Christ, our Light.

Guide us together by your Holy Spirit, to trust in your will, amen.