

Luke 4: 14-22

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

Within us, among us, before us,
CHRIST IS COME TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I’m not enough.
Every single lie that tells me I will never measure up.
Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low?
Remind me once again just who I am, because I need to know.

You say I am loved when I can’t feel a thing.
You say I am strong when I think I am weak.
You say I am held when I am falling short.
When I don’t belong, oh You say that I am Yours.
And I believe, oh I believe,
What You say of me,
I believe.

Lauren Daigle Recording artist

All creatures long for an unambiguous fulfillment of their essential possibilities.

Paul Tillich Theologian---20th century

Let's begin today by remembering something we've pondered before; Jesus loved the writings of Isaiah. He uses Isaiah here to give expression to his own very personal mission statement as he launches his ministry. He's just returned from a 40 day retreat, where he fasted and wrestled with various temptations, all having to do with Jesus' OWN salvation, in a manner of speaking. For whom would he live? For himself or for God? So for 40 days he prayerfully finds his way to a self-surrendered loving freedom to be led NOT by self-interest but by God's Spirit in all things. In a moment of serendipity then, having come back to his home synagogue, the presiding person there gives him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Perfect. He finds his way to what may be his favorite text, found in chapter 61.

All this to remind ourselves that, particularly in the book of Isaiah, this goes for the Psalms certainly and the rest of the Hebrew Text, but in the book of Isaiah when we sit to read this material we are reading material that Jesus loved to read, material that Jesus probably memorized, material that deeply formed Jesus' spirituality, his prayer, his sense of God's call on his life. Wow.

For our guests today, we are in the middle of a sermon series about some of the BIG WORDS of the Christian Faith. We are talking about words that get prayed a lot, preached a lot, and which get thrown around a lot in the wider culture. Sometimes these words get used well and appropriately and meaningfully. Sometimes they don't. We aspire to use them well, because they are BIG WORDS. Important words. Holy words. Today's BIG WORD is SALVATION. You can see where this sermon series is going in the calendar listing of the handout today. We've previously considered these big words: The Kingdom of God, Evil, Justice, and Grace. Those sermons are posted on our newly expanded church website.

Here's a bit of Bible trivia. The name Jesus is a Greek/Latin rendering of the name Joshua which means God is salvation, or God saves. You may remember that it was Joshua who led the Hebrews into the Promised Land. Jesus, then has a similar mission, but I want to invite you to consider with me that the Promised Land Jesus is wanting to lead us into is an abundant and spacious interior landscape for our spiritual thriving and wholeness.

Here's an image for this. Imagine a seed in the ground. The ground is dark and confining. The seed hungers for air and light. Because the seed is a seed, it is inherently capable, in the mystery of what it means to be a seed, it is inherently capable of breaking open and sprouting and reaching for light and air and space in which to become what it is created to become in the fullness of its being. Jesus used the image of the mustard seed, the smallest of seeds which, when fully grown, becomes a home for the birds. What do I mean with the image of a seed? It's the image of God in us.

The word SALVATION, friends, has many, many nuances and dimensions. This is the case with all our BIG WORDS--which is why it behooves us to cherish the depth of meanings they contain. When we hear the word salvation used to describe a simple transaction, confess Jesus as your Savior and thereby reserve a room in God's heavenly mansion, we are hearing but a sliver of what this BIG WORD can mean. Far from being a word about going to heaven when we die, it has always been and continues to be cherished also as a word about being filled with heaven before we die.

So to get you thinking about salvation in a way you may not have considered before, let me define it like this:

Salvation is God's "space-making" or "space expanding" work in our beings. God's saving work in our lives is to create more and more space in us so that, as Paul says, we can be filled with all the fullness of God. The work of salvation, or the process of salvation, is about that seed of God's image in us becoming all it can be, filling us up, so that we fully become who God created us to be. Note today's text---Jesus was FILLED.

There is a gap there isn't there? A gap between who we are presently and who it is we somehow know we can be... ..as Tillich says in our handout----the fulfilment of our essential possibilities.

Friends we are interiorly cramped and cluttered, anxious, fearful, envious, prideful, judgmental, wounded, grieved, angry, lost, burdened with guilt. There are voices in our minds that say we are not enough as the lyrics in the handout remind us.

Very little room in us for the image of God to breathe, to expand.
Very little room for compassion, for mercy, patience, wisdom, grace.

For all the ways in which we are captives, Jesus announces and effects release
For all the ways in which we are blind, Jesus declares and effects sight
For all the ways in which we are oppressed, Jesus proclaims and effects freedom.

Salvation, the expansion of spaciousness in us for God, is all God's work. Our role is to cooperate with it. Have a prayer life, read, as Jesus did, lots of scripture, give yourself time to be still and silent. Take in with your eyes, ears, lungs, skin, the beauty of the natural world.

And find your way to a faith community where you can, with others, experience the wonder of Paul's experience of salvation-----the old is passing away, behold, the new is here!

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

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

February 3, 2019

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Flag Ceremony

Love is our chosen food, our cup, holding us in its power
WHEREVER WE HAVE COME FROM, WHEREVER WE SHALL GO
LOVE IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT, OUR TRUE ESTATE
Let us rejoice in the Counselor who guides our way

Lighting of the Candles

"... we are guarded by your love, sheltered by your grace." Psalm 91

From the Rising of the Sun (Handout)

Sharing Christ's Peace

254 Breathe on Me Breath of God

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"You bring healing to your people..." Psalm 30

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

Happy are they whom You instruct, those You teach Your ways

WHEN MANY CARES FILL OUR MINDS, YOUR CONSOLATIONS CHEER OUR SOULS

THE GOSPEL LULE 4: 14-22 (Rise in body or spirit)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.

The Meditation "The New Is Here!" Rev. Rob Carr

Blessed are those in emotional turmoil, they shall be united inside by love.
Healed are those who weep for their frustrated desire, they shall see the face of fulfilment.

Tuned to the Source are those feeling deeply confused by life,
they shall be returned from their wandering.

Healthy are those who have softened what is rigid within, they shall receive
vigor and strength from the universe.

Gracious Birther of the Cosmos, create your reign of unity now, Amen.
Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

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.

Jesus Draw Me Close (Handout)

Gracious God, Source of all blessings, you have been extravagant in your generosity
**YOU HAVE PLANTED WITHIN US THE SEEDS OF HOPE AND SPREAD BEFORE US
THIS FEAST OF ALL POSSIBILITY**
Words cannot express our gratitude
MAY WE EMBODY OUR THANKS WITH ACTS OF COMPASSION FOR ONE ANOTHER

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

Lord Jesus Christ restore us to our rightful minds
YOU CROWN US WITH FORGIVENESS AND WE ARE AMAZED
Holy God to you we come
A PEOPLE RENEWED, FORGIVEN, SURRENDERED

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"

611 Rise Up O Saints of God

Retiring the Colors

May you be filled with all the fullness of God!

**WHOSE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US CAN ACCOMPLISH FAR MORE
THAN ALL WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE!**

TO OUR GUESTS-----WELCOME!

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

WE WALK HUMBLY, 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 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--SOUPER BOWL! Our Scout Families Welcome!
Monday 6PM Troop 90
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900
Tuesday 7PM Women's Bible Group
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry
Thursday 6PM Girl Scouts
Saturday 9AM-Noon Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop--Free.

NEXT SUNDAY

YOUTH SUNDAY 1015AM
NOCC YOUTH WITH NORTHLAND DISCIPLES YOUTH 5PM
Meeting at Fairview Christian Church (Grades 2-12)

UPCOMING

VITAL CONVERSATIONS WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13 1PM ANTIOCH LIBRARY

BIG WORDS SERMON SERIES CONTINUES
February 17---Atonement
February 24---Resurrection
March 3---Second Coming

ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVANCE WITH HOLY FAMILY PARISH
MARCH 6 7PM

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN MARCH 13 6PM

Keep these items in mind as you consider the remarkable ministry
of our friends at CHERITH BROOK with the homeless.
Blankets Blankets Blankets! Tennis Shoes, Cold Meds, Band-aids, Bike Locks,
Gloves, Hats, Chapstick
Cherith Brook Local Honey for Sale! Contact Eric 816-241-8047