

Romans 5: 1-5

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace^[a] with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. ³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

THANKS BE TO GOD

I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from *nature* or *nurture*, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair.

Nelson Mandela

When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it--always.

Mahatma Gandhi

Happiness depends more upon the internal frame of a person's own mind, than on the externals in the world.

George Washington

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials." The quotes I placed in the handout today offer three versions of the exuberant hope that Paul is expressing

in the text today. Can you guess what these three men have in common? They are “Fathers of Nations.” They became so because they possessed a capacity to lean into and persevere through “problems and trials” as our text says.

You may have heard the colloquialism often attributed to dads everywhere when their kids scrape a knee-----“rub some dirt on it.” Perseverance. Resilience.

There is something to be said for self-reliance right? This is something both moms and dads usually set out to teach their kids.

But our text today is not talking about gritting your teeth and bearing down. We are not talking about toughness here---we are not talking about reliance on our own strength.

Many times, reliance on our own strength has a dynamic about it of “proving oneself” or justifying oneself, or seeking to gain the admiration or acceptance of others, winning the game, winning the race, winning the prize and hence the recognition and the affirmation of the crowd. This tends to be about ego reinforcement...and the need we have to see ourselves as better than, or stronger than others.

The strength Paul is talking about is supernatural. Something not of our own conjuring or willing or developing. It’s a strength and resiliency that rests in having experienced oneself as ALREADY COMPLETELY AND PERMANENTLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY ACCEPTED, LOVED, CHERISHED, VALUED. Not for anything we have done. The text today speaks of “undeserved privilege.” Other translations use the word “grace” there.

God has us. We know this deeply, not because we have figured it out on our own but because it has been revealed to us by what Jesus Christ has done for us. God takes the initiative Paul says. The depth of God’s love for us knows no limit, it’s beyond our comprehension but not beyond our experience, and the experience of this limitless incomprehensible love which has been and continues to be revealed to us, is peace.

God has us. We are fundamentally at peace, fundamentally at rest. And we did not do this to ourselves. The Spirit has done this. The Spirit is doing this. Our hearts are being filled with love, the love that endures all things, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13.

There is nothing to prove to anyone. The ego is at rest... un-anxious. We don’t have to be for ourselves anymore. We can be for others... we are happiest being for others. Grace has made us gracious. Love has made us loving. Acceptance has made us accepting. And our sense of the limitlessness of grace, of love, of acceptance which has been revealed to us in Christ engenders in our souls an astonishing and determined hope.

Problems and trials come our way. They disturb the surface of the water of our lives, but they do not penetrate to the deep stillness of our hearts from where we bring forth the grace and wisdom to live through them—to transform them, to bring them to rest.

The wise 16th century Saint Teresa of Avila expresses all this beautifully in one of her more familiar quotes—wisdom for us all to keep close at hand in these days of problems and trials.

“Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you, all things are passing, God is unchanging. Patience gains all; nothing is lacking to those who have God: God alone is sufficient.”

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

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

June 16, 2019

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

We profess the transforming power of love

WE PROFESS THAT JUSTICE IS A FORM OF LOVE

WE PROFESS THAT WE ARE STILL GROWING INTO THE MYSTERY OF LOVE

Lighting of the Candles

"Love is the reason for my existence..." Thomas Merton

59 This is My Father's World

We Welcome One Another as Christ

Trombone Solo Rob Traphagan

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"There is no possibility of God holding back." Thomas Keating

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

Lord, be with us this day, within us to purify us, above us to draw us up

BENEATH US TO SUSTAIN US, AROUND US TO PROTECT US, AMEN

THE LESSON ROMANS 5: 1-5

The Meditation "God Has Us" Rev. Rob Carr

Glory to God, Source of all bounty and beauty

WHOSE FULLNESS AND FRAGRANCE TRANSFORMS US

Glory to God, who has promised never to forsake the creation he loves

CREATOR GOD, WE LIFT OUR HEARTS TO YOU IN THANKS

(Silent and spoken prayers of confession, intercession, thanksgiving)

Trombone Solo Rob Traphagan

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.

595 Be Thou My Vision vss 1, 3, 4

Welcome to the Table

As a gathered community of disciples

CREATED BY THE HANDS OF THE HOLY, BORN WITH DIVINE PURPOSE
Bound together by the Spirit that breathes life into all things
WE AFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE WAY OF JESUS CHRIST
LIBERATOR OF THE OPPRESSED, BREAD OF HEAVEN, GOD ENFLESHED

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"

609 Take My Life vss 1, 2, 3, 5

Send us forth, Holy One, Led by Your Spirit

TO LIVE OUT IN THE WORLD WHAT WE PRAY AND PROFESS--AMEN

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

Bells Practice 11:45AM
Monday 6PM Troop 900
Tuesday 9:45AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 7PM Women's Bible Group

Every Sunday this summer at Sunfresh 9AM-----Coffee and Conversation

UPCOMING

WELCOME

GREATER KANSAS CITY DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY TO NOCC

On June 27, Disciples women from our area will be gathering beginning at 6PM (check in) for a dinner and program beginning at 6:30PM.

The keynote speaker is Dawn R Steiner, MD, Medical Director for UHWC (University of Health Women's Care) in Lee's Summit. Dr. Steiner is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and also certified in daVinci robotic surgery. Sounds like this could be interesting!! All ladies and gents are welcome to attend! Looking for NOCC volunteers to help with hosting the "dining experience" and hope you'll stay for the program too!

Great food, music, and wonderful fellowship with our area Disciples!!

Contact Debbie Herrick for more information!

GOING TO CAMP AT TALL OAKS

June 23-28 Phoebe Stripling and Maddie Holt
Tristen Holt July 9-12

CHERITH BROOK SEEKING ITEMS

such as small men's and women's undies, sugar, razors, bike locks, gauze pads and medical tape, for their friends experiencing homelessness.

HOSPITALITY TEAM FORMING

The NOCC Board and Elders welcome interested people to form a new ministry team focused on improving all aspects of how we welcome Sunday morning guests. Together we will look at "best practice" resources and seek additional ways we can be more welcoming.

Interested? Contact Rob