

19 february 2012
west valley presbyterian church
a church for the West Valley

THIS
JESUS. PLACE.

elementary incarnation:

what to do with personal suffering?

from psalm 34.1-3

a call to worship from the Word

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

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

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

Grace Like Rain

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see so clearly

***And hallelujah,
Grace like rain falls down on me
And hallelujah,
And all my stains are washed away
They're washed away***

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing Your praise, than when we first begun

declaring with the church historic

from the Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

q1. What is thy only comfort in life and death?

That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready to live unto him.

q2. How many things are necessary for thee to know, that thou, enjoying this comfort, mayest live and die happily?

Three; the first, how great my sins and miseries are; the second, how I may be delivered from all my sins and miseries; the third, how I shall express my gratitude to God for such deliverance.

prayer and greeting

oneness and otherness

It is Well With my Soul-*offering*

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot
Thou hast taught me to say
"It is well, It is well with my soul"

***It is well (It is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul!***

My sin, O the bliss, of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day
When the faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound
And the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul!

personal repentance and communal confession

praying the Word - adapted from Psalm 56 and 2 Corinthians 4

Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me;
all day long an attacker oppresses me;
When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can flesh do to me?
You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in your bottle.
This I know, that God is for me.
In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can man do to me?
So be gracious yet again, O God,
we are afflicted in every way...
please show us that we are not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed.

Remind us again that we are rescued from the fullness of suffering in this sinful world -
by the death of Jesus - that his righteous life may also be manifested in our bodies. Amen.

philippians 3.9-10

promise of forgiveness

by faith, you will be found in Jesus.
not with my best efforts as my “righteousness”
but with his righteousness alone as your identity.
thanks be to God, through Jesus!

Jesus Thank You

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near
Your enemy You've made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

Lover of my soul
I want to live for you

THIS Jesus and THIS life

testimony: Richard Shaffer

Word

children's sermon
Acts 9.15-16
Jim Powell, pastor

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babel!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid: Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Sacrament

examine yourself - 1 Corinthian 11.23-28

Do you see brokenness and sin and need? Have you repented of it and been hungry for the mercy of Christ to cover you with his perfection? Have you turned from self-satisfaction (doing, fixing, defining) to Christ alone to satisfy your thirst? Have you publicly declared your allegiance to Christ among his church? Are you reconciled by Christ's forgiveness with all men (so far as you can tell) such that you come to his altar as a conduit of his mercy? Are you desperate for his rescue, for his rest, for his righteousness?

benediction

1 Peter 5.10-11

And after you have suffered a little while [in this life], the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

West Valley PCA CCLI License #3024647

*all quotations from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* © 2001
by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.