



Order of Service
Sunday Morning, 10 October 2021 – Mr Dick Haffenden

Call to Worship

Psalms 98:1-4 (accompanied)

1 O sing a new song to the LORD,
for wonders he has done;
His right hand and his holy arm
the victory have won.

And all the nations of the earth
have seen what God has done —
Our God who brings deliverance
by his right hand alone.

2 The LORD declared his saving work
and made it to be known;
To all the nations of the world
his righteousness is shown.

4 Acclaim the LORD, O all the earth;
shout loudly and rejoice.
Make music and be jubilant;
to him lift up your voice.

3 His steadfast love and faithfulness
he has remembered well —
The covenant he made with them,
the house of Israel.

Prayer of Confession

Psalms 16:5-11

5 O LORD, you are to me
my cup and portion sure;
The share that is assigned to me
you guard and keep secure.

9 Therefore my heart is glad;
my tongue with joy will sing.
My body too will rest secure
in hope unwavering.

6 The land allotted me
is in a pleasant site;
And surely my inheritance
to me is a delight.

10 For you will not allow
my soul in death to stay,
Nor will you leave your Holy One
to see the tomb's decay.

7 I'll praise the LORD my God,
whose counsel guides my choice;
And even in the night, my heart
recalls instruction's voice.

11 You have made known to me
the path of life divine.
Bliss shall I know at your right hand;
joy from your face will shine.

8 Before me constantly
I set the LORD alone.
Because he is at my right hand
I'll not be overthrown.

Bible reading

Joshua 7

7 But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel.

²Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." And the men went up and spied out Ai. ³And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not make all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few."

⁴So about 3,000 men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, ⁵and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

⁶Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads. ⁷And Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan! ⁸O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! ⁹For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?"

¹⁰The LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? ¹¹Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. ¹²Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs to their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. ¹³Get up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the LORD, God of Israel, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you.'" ¹⁴In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. And the tribe that the LORD takes by lot shall come near by clans. And the clan that the LORD takes shall come near by households. And the household that the LORD takes shall come near man by man. ¹⁵And he who is taken with the devoted things shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done an outrageous thing in Israel.'"

¹⁶So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel near tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was taken. ¹⁷And he brought near the clans of Judah, and the clan of the Zerahites was taken. And he brought near the clan of the Zerahites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. ¹⁸And he brought near his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. ¹⁹Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." ²⁰And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

²²So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath. ²³And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the LORD. ²⁴And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. ²⁶And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

Psalm 119(5):33-40

33 Teach me to follow your decrees;
Then I will keep them to the end.

34 Give insight, and I'll keep your law,
With all my heart to it attend.

35 Lead me in your commandments' path,
For there, O LORD, delight I find.

36 Incline my heart towards your laws;
From selfish gain preserve my mind.

37 O turn my eyes from worthless things;
Give life according to your word.

38 To me, your servant, keep your pledge,
So that you may be feared, O LORD.

39 Remove from me the shame I dread;
Your laws excel in uprightness.

40 O how I long for your decrees!
Preserve me in your righteousness.

Sermon: *God is Serious About Sin*

Pastoral Prayer

When Peace Like a River

(Horatio Gates Spafford, 1873, Public Domain)

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."

My sin, oh, 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!

Refrain

Refrain

*It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul);
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed His own blood for my soul.

Refrain

Benediction