

Our Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Sunday, May 9, 2021

~Charles Le Brun, 1651~

Stoning somebody to death, even somebody as young and healthy as Stephen, isn't easy. You don't get the job done with the first few rocks, and even after you've got the man down, it's a long, hot business. To prepare themselves for the workout, they stripped to the waist and got somebody to keep an eye on their things till they were through. The man they got was a fire-breathing young arch-conservative Jew named Saul.

~Frederick Buechner~



Worship in Song

Coming Home

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

Our Worship Confession

Psalm 100

**We will make a joyful noise to the LORD in all the earth!
We will serve the LORD with gladness!
We will come into the LORD's presence with singing!
We know that the LORD, he is God!
Our LORD made us. We belong to the LORD.
We are his sheep. The LORD is our shepherd.
We will enter his gates with thanksgiving.
We will enter his courts with praise. We will give thanks to the LORD.
We will bless his name. Our LORD is good.
Our LORD's steadfast love endures forever.
Our LORD's faithfulness extends to all generations.**

Worship in Song

Hymn Of The Ages

Worship in Word

Colossians 1 & Romans 8

Leader: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

People: For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

Leader: Jesus Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

People: Jesus Christ is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Leader: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through Jesus Christ to reconcile to himself all things,

People: whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Leader: So if God is for us who can be against us?

People: God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with Jesus Christ graciously give us all things?

Leader: Who will bring any charge against us whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns?

People: Christ Jesus who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of the Father is also praying for us.

Leader: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword or death?

People: NO! In all these things we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ who loved us.

Leader: For we are convinced that neither death nor life,

People: Neither angels nor demons,

Leader: Neither the present nor the future,

People: Nor any powers, neither height nor depth,

Leader: Nor anything else in all creation,

People: Will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Worship in Song

The Goodness of God

The Words of Christ

Matthew 5:1-12

Leader: Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

People: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

People: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

People: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

People: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

People: Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Leader: These are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

Worship in Song

In Christ Alone

Offering Prayer & The Lord Be With You

Reading of Scripture

Acts 7:54-8:3

Worship in Song

Bury The Workman

Message

Stephen and the People at the Stoning

Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in

**your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Hear us as we
your people pray the prayer Jesus taught us. Our Father . . .**

The Lord's Supper & Worship in Song Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

Common Confession

1 Peter 2:21-25

**We were called to this because Christ suffered for us. Jesus Christ left us an
example so we could follow in his steps. Jesus committed no sin and no
deceit was found in his mouth. He did not retaliate when they hurled their
insults at him. He made no threats when he suffered. Instead he entrusted
himself to God the Father who judges justly. Jesus Christ bore our sins in his
body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. The
wounds of Jesus Christ have healed us. We have struggled like straying
sheep. Now we have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls,
Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. AMEN**

Worship in Song

Build Your Kingdom Here

Benediction

Postlude