



REDEEMER PRES

3RD SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
1.10.2021

Explanation of Cover Art

By Bethany Sanders

The first panel is for 1 Peter 4:12-13, where Peter talks about fiery ordeals.

The second panel is for 1 Peter 5:1-4 where Peter addresses the elders and exhorts them to be shepherds of God's flock. I was thinking about how in 1 Peter 5 the shepherds are also the sheep. So I have a sheeple shepherd doing a fire-man carry of a sheeple from his flock. The background is a cracked desert because the shepherd is carrying the other sheep to safety.

The third panel is for 1 Peter 5:8-9, where Peter tells Christians to resist the devil who "prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." I wondered how sheep could resist a lion. Peter uses the term "resist" instead of "defeat," so I drew the sheep with staffs—defensive rather than offensive weapons—and had them face the prowling lion together.

Explanation of Window Art

By Erin Hall

These tattered royal garments are arranged in structured community. From the perspective of one piece, they may be overshadowed or feel exposed and rub against the frays of another, but from afar even the tattered humble fragments show glimpses of their beauty in how they play off each other. There are many circles and intersections in our body, but one strong common chord. I was also meditating on the ideas of "casting anxiety on him" and clothing ourselves in humility toward one another; submitting to elders as part of the necessary structure: for each piece, if not tied in, would easily drift away. It is also such joy that our Lord sees our beauty now, and delights in us, even as we are.

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 14:24-27

Leader

The LORD Almighty has sworn,

“Surely, as I have planned, so it will be,
and as I have purposed, so it will happen.
I will crush the Enemy in my land;
on my mountains I will trample him down.
His yoke will be taken from my people,
and his burden removed from their shoulders.”

All

**This is the plan determined for the whole world;
this is the hand stretched out over all nations.
For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him?
His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?**

Opening Hymn

“The Lord is King”

All

**The Lord is King! Lift up your voice,
O earth and all ye heav’ns, rejoice!
From world to world, the joy shall ring,
“The Lord omnipotent is King!”**

**Sing his praise, sing his praise,
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;
Sing his praise, sing his praise,
All your days, all your days.**

**The Lord is King! Who then shall dare
Resist his will, distrust his care,
Or murmur at his wise decrees,
Or doubt his royal promises?**

**Sing his praise, sing his praise,
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;
Sing his praise, sing his praise,
All your days, all your days.**

**The Lord is King! Bow down you must;
The Judge of all the earth is just;
Holy and true are all his ways;
Let every creature sing his praise.**

**Sing his praise, sing his praise,
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;
Sing his praise, sing his praise,
All your days, all your days.**

**Sing his praise, sing his praise,
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;
Sing his praise, sing his praise,
All your days, all your days.**

words Josiah Conder, 1824; music Nathan Partain, 2003

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, you taught us to have a heart posture
that prays for our Father's name to be honored in all the earth,
for his favor and healing to be accomplished on earth just like it is in heaven.
But we seek your kingdom and your blessings without you.

Where we have treated politics as the ultimate way to bring your kingdom to earth,
Lord, forgive us and help us.

Where we have yoked Jesus to the tribes and politics of this age,
Lord, forgive us and help us.

Where we have placed power above truth,
Lord, forgive us and help us.

Where we have failed to pray for our leaders,
Lord, forgive us and help us.

Where we have failed to believe, Lord, that you appoint those who govern us,
Lord, forgive us and help us.

Where we have talked past each other and not listened,
Lord, forgive us and help us.

Where we have hated our enemies and looked down on those who disagree with us,
Lord, forgive us and help us.

**Where we have treated as family those who agree with us politically
more than those who believe with us in Jesus,**
Lord, forgive us and help us.

Where we have in self-righteousness said, "Thank God, I'm not like *those* people,"
Lord, forgive us and help us.

Where we have failed to share the gospel message as the hope for the world,
Lord, forgive us and help us.

**For the sake of your name and your glory.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Drawn from Titus 3:4-7

Leader

If you have confessed your sins in Jesus' name,
you are forgiven.

For when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,
he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done,
but because of his mercy.

All

**He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by his grace,
we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.**

Song in the Gospel

“Abide in Me”

All

**Abide in me, O Lord, and I in thee,
From this good hour, O leave me nevermore;
Then shall the discord cease, the wound be healed,
The lifelong bleeding of the soul be o’er.
Abide in me, o’ershadow by thy love
Each half-formed purpose and dark thought of sin;
Quench, ere it rise, each selfish, low desire,
And keep my soul, as thine, calm and divine.**

**We raise our voices to the Father. He hears our prayers through his Son.
We are enabled by his Spirit. Let your name be hallowed, let your kingdom come.**

**As some rare perfume in a vase of clay,
Pervades it with a fragrance not its own,
So, when thou dwellest in a mortal soul,
All heav’n’s own sweetness seems around it thrown.
Abide in me; there have been moments blest
When I have heard thy voice and felt thy pow’r;
Then evil lost its grasp, and passion, hushed,
Owned the divine enchantment of the hour.**

**We raise our voices to the Father. He hears our prayers through his Son.
We are enabled by his Spirit. Let your name be hallowed, let your kingdom come.**

**These were but seasons beautiful and rare;
Abide in me, and they shall ever be;
Fulfill at once thy precept and my prayer:
Come and abide in me and I in thee.**

**We raise our voices to the Father. He hears our prayers through his Son.
We are enabled by his Spirit. Let your name be hallowed, let your kingdom...**

**We raise our voices to the Father. He hears our prayers through his Son.
We are enabled by his Spirit. Let your name be hallowed, let your kingdom come.**

words Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1855; chorus and music Nathan Partain, 2002

Song in the Gospel

"The Gospel is All I Have"

All

The gospel is all I have. The gospel is all I have.
No well-kept, presentable life to display.
The gospel is all I have.

The gospel is all I have. The gospel is all I have.
No courage. No virtuous bold use of faith.
The gospel is all I have.

Well, the Lord God Almighty leapt down from the sky,
And he made himself nothing and served till he died,
So that I, just a beggar, at the Judgement might cry,
"The gospel is all I have!"

The gospel is all I have. The gospel is all I have.
No merit to offer. No excuses to make.
The gospel is all I have.

Well, the Lord God Almighty leapt down from the sky,
And he made himself nothing and served till he died,
So that I, just a beggar, at the Judgement might cry,
"The gospel is all I have!"

The gospel is all I have. The gospel is all I have.
No clever, persuasive words I could say.
No debt I could work off. No bribe I could pay.
No goodness. No promise of love that won't fade.
The gospel is all I have.

Well, the Lord God Almighty leapt down from the sky,
And he made himself nothing and served till he died,
So that I, just a beggar, at the Judgement might cry,
"The gospel is all I have!"
"The gospel is all I have!"

Nathan Partain, 2005

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [\[redeemindy.org/give\]](https://redeemindy.org/give)



Scripture

Acts 11:19-30

Reader

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews. ²⁰ However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.

²² When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. ²⁴ Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.

²⁵ Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. ²⁶ When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)

²⁷ During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. ³⁰ This they did, entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Josh Holowell

Some of the Believers

Community Group Questions

- 1) Why is Multiethnic Church planting the normal outworking of the gospel?
Why is that not our experience in America?
- 2) How can church members and trained church planters work together for the expansion of the Kingdom?
- 3) Why is church planting necessary?

Song of Response

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

All

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear!
It soothes their sorrows, heals their wounds and drives away their fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the troubled breast;
’Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.**

**Jesus! my Shepherd, Husband, Friend, my Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.**

**Weak is the effort of my heart and cold my warmest thought;
But when I see you as you are, I’ll praise you as I ought.**

**Till then I would thy love proclaim with every fleeting breath;
And may the music of thy name refresh my soul in death!**

words John Newton, 1779; Ancient Irish Melody

Community Life

Christmas/Epiphany Prayer Guide

Women's Bible Studies

Valediction

From Romans 1:14-16

Leader Dear children,
let us ask God to stir our hearts,
making us eager to bring the eternal good news of Jesus
to all those around us.

All **Amen.**
May we not be ashamed of his good news.
For it is where God's power works
and how he brings rescue and deliverance to all who believe.

Leader For in the telling of this good news,
God's gift of making sinners whole is revealed—
a goodness that is completely by faith in what he has done for us.

All **As the scriptures said of old,**
those declared righteous will be righteous by faith in God's work.

Closing Hymn

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

All

**I know that my Redeemer lives, Glory Hallelujah!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives, Glory Hallelujah!**

**Shout on, pray on, we’re gaining ground, Glory Hallelujah!
The dead’s alive, and the lost is found, Glory Hallelujah!**

**He lives, he lives, who once was dead, Glory Hallelujah!
He lives, my everlasting Head, Glory Hallelujah!**

**Shout on, pray on, we’re gaining ground, Glory Hallelujah!
The dead’s alive, and the lost is found, Glory Hallelujah!**

**He lives to crush the fiends of hell; Glory Hallelujah!
He lives and doth within me dwell; Glory Hallelujah!**

**Shout on, pray on, we’re gaining ground, Glory Hallelujah!
The dead’s alive, and the lost is found, Glory Hallelujah!**

**He lives to bless me with His love; Glory Hallelujah!
He lives to plead my cause above; Glory Hallelujah!**

**Shout on, pray on, we’re gaining ground, Glory Hallelujah!
The dead’s alive, and the lost is found, Glory Hallelujah!**

**He lives all glory to his name; Glory Hallelujah!
He lives, my Jesus, now, today! Glory Hallelujah!**

**Shout on, pray on, we’re gaining ground, Glory Hallelujah!
The dead’s alive, and the lost is found, Glory Hallelujah!**

**Shout on, pray on, we’re gaining ground, Glory Hallelujah!
The dead’s alive, and the lost is found, Glory Hallelujah!**

words: Samuel Medley, 1775; music: F. C. Wood, 1850

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2020 budget:

\$ 2,256,301

year to date giving:

\$ 2,279,306.03

Congregational Giving

Dec 31 st	\$	\$54,063.50
Dec Total	\$	\$400,644.96
Dec Budget	\$	\$188,025.08
