

The Story: A Kingdom Torn in Two

Jan. 10, 2016

THEME: God works on our behalf to end all divisions.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

CONFESSION/FORGIVENESS

P: How good and pleasant it is when people dwell in unity.

C: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

P: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

ALL: How good and pleasant it is when people dwell in unity.

Psalm

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P: It is God's desire that we live in peace and unity with Him and with one another. Unfortunately, life does not turn out that way. We experience discord in our relationships with our family, our friends and our spouse. Today we need God's strength found in His forgiveness so that we can mend the brokenness around us.

(Time of Silence)

C: Lord, we come before You in prayer today, asking for forgiveness. We especially confess today the times that we have let discord and strife win the day. We have not loved others as You have asked. Too often we have first chosen those things that would serve ourselves best, rather than first seeking what would bring Your peace to others. Give us new eyes and a heart to seek peace.

P: God, our heavenly Creator, hears the prayers of all people and answers those prayers. Our prayer for forgiveness is answered in the person and work of Jesus Christ, who died for our sin that we might have new life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins—in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE

[They'll Know We Are Christians](#)

We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by are love.

We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other,

We will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father,
Whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus,
His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray. Lord, you gently invite us to participate in Your kingdom. Your desire is that all people know and cherish the love You have for us through Your Son, Jesus. Give us willing hearts and minds to see and then act when given the opportunity. We pray this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson: I Kings 12:1-11

Rehoboam's Folly

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you." He said to them, "Go away for three days, then come again to me." So the people went away. Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" And they said to him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him. And he said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us'?" And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,' thus shall you say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs. And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

CHOIR ANTHEM

Come, Follow That Star

By Don Besig

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

Jesus is baptized by John

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his

threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN "Green Book" 501

He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, over troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.
*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.
*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.
*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again,
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body
And the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERINGS GATHERED

(We give our offerings as a sign of our lives given to the Lord in humble service)

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

after each petition the response is:

P: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, family are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

EXTENDING PEACE

Melissa Goff

Philomath School District Superintendent

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POST-SERVICE MUSIC