

WELCOME!



Worship
10:30 am

Morning Worship

January 10, 2021

Reflection

"Kind words do not cost much. They never blister the tongue or lips. They make other people good-natured. They also produce their own image on men's souls, and a beautiful image it is."

~Blaise Pascal

True religion is evermore a powerful thing; and the power of it appears, in the first place, in its exercises in the heart, its principal and original seat. Hence true religion is called the power of godliness, in distinction from external appearances, which are in the form of it, 2 Timothy 3:5. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it." The Spirit of God, in those who have sound and solid religion, is a Spirit of powerful holy affection; and therefore, God is said "to have given them the Spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

~Jonathan Edwards

Approach to God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship — Psalm 138:1-2, 4-6 (responsive)

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;

before the gods I sing your praise;

² I bow down toward your holy temple

and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love

and your faithfulness,

for you have exalted above all things

your name and your word.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,

for they have heard the words of your mouth,

⁵ and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,

for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,

but the haughty he knows from afar.

Song of Praise — Come Praise & Glorify

Come praise and glorify our God, the Father of our Lord
In Christ He has in heav'nly realms, His blessings on us poured
For pure and blameless in His sight He destined us to be
And now we've been adopted through His Son eternally

*To the praise of Your glory, to the praise of Your mercy and grace
To the praise of Your glory, You are the God who saves*

Come praise and glorify our God, who gives His grace in Christ
In Him our sins are washed away, redeemed through sacrifice
In Him God has made known to us, the myst'ry of His will
That Christ should be the head of all His purpose to fulfill (chorus)

Come praise and glorify our God for we've believed the Word
And through our faith we have a seal, the Spirit of the Lord
The Spirit guarantees our hope until redemption's done
Until we join in endless praise to God, the Three in One (chorus)

Prayer of Adoration

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon — Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Response in Song — Have Your Way with Me, O God

Have Your way with me, O God, in the temple of my heart
Let reverent love and holy awe, be lifted unto You
The truth my inmost being claim. Til sin and shadows flee away
Teach my feet to love Your ways. And run the way You choose

Have Your way with me, O Lord. Sin's pleasures I cannot afford
They left me destitute and poor. Now all I want is Christ
A passion for the gospel burns. To love Your bride, the holy church
Wash me with Your blood and Word, til I am sanctified

Holy Spirit, have Your way. I look to You for strength and faith
I need Your presence and Your grace to persevere this hour
Complete in me what You've begun. Keep me by Your sovereign love
In my weakness, Spirit, come, and fill me with Your power

Jesus, have Your way with me. You bled for all who would believe
Let my life become a seed and give me grace to die
Display through my surrendered life Your selfless love and sacrifice
Until Your glory fills the sky, be praised and glorified

Congregational Prayer

Offering — *You can give on-line at the New Hope website —
www.newhopeopc.org and click on the green “give” button in the corner.*

Sermon Text — James 1:26-27

²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Sermon — What is Pure Religion?

~ Pastor Francis VanDelden

Closing Hymn — O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
(page 6)

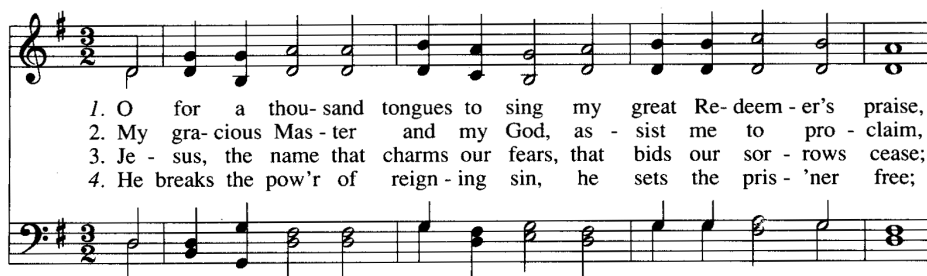
What is Pure Religion?

James 1:26-27

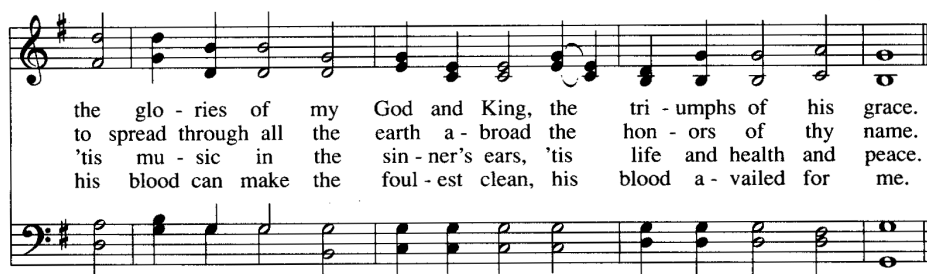
1. Worthless Religion (vs 26)

2. Undefined Religion (vs 27)

Closing Hymn — O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1. O for a thou- sand tongues to sing my great Re- deem - er's praise,
2. My gra- cious Mas- ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;
4. He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, he sets the pris - 'ner free;



the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
his blood can make the foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.

5. He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosen'd tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting, our annual congregational meeting and the meeting of the corporation will take place on January 31st at 2:00 via Zoom. Instructions for how to attend this meeting as well as how the meeting will take place will be sent via email within the next 2 weeks.

Upcoming Dates/Events to Know:

- January 13, Wednesday Night Bible study & youth group meeting
- January 16, second meeting of the trial of Mr. Jason Rundell, 9:00 am at New Hope
- January 19th, board of trustees meeting, 7:30 pm
- January 31, annual congregational meeting, 2:00 pm via zoom

COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

Our Church Family

- Pray for our nation at this time of uncertainty and unrest. Pray for peace and for a turning to God. Pray, too, for our capitol police force of which John O'Shea and Jared Bendy are members.
- Pray for Rob Willman's mom who had surgery for a removal of a brain tumor. Pray for a full recovery and patience during the isolation she is in.
- Pray for the upcoming trial of Jason Rundell for truth, justice, and God's presence for all involved.
- Pray for the Lord to work powerfully in Scott Innes while he spends the next month in rehab.
- Pray that the Lord would raise up men to serve as elders and deacons at New Hope.
- Give thanks for the marriage of Hannah and Tyler Beck who were married yesterday. Pray for the Lord's blessing upon their lives together and that their marriage will be Christ-centered.
- Pray for those in our congregation who are struggling with sickness from covid, recovering from it, or quarantining because of it. Pray for trust in God through it and not giving in to fear.
- Continue to pray for those who are struggling: Christopher Burden, the Vidal family, Scott Innes, Kim Hanlin's father, John & Muriel Hadidian's daughter-in-law, the Wright family, Bill Wright, Ron Oakes, Ed Rodatus and those who are grieving from the loss of loved ones. Pray for strength to bear their difficult trials.

Frederick Area

- Pray for the missions that we support financially: CareNet Pregnancy Center, Child Evangelism Fellowship, and the Frederick Rescue Mission. Pray that God will continue to provide for all their needs.
- Pray for the churches in Frederick that they will be committed to preaching only the truths of scripture.

Missionaries & Others

- Pray for our missionary of the month — Mike who serves in Asia. Pray that he will be able to return soon to his missionary duties after a long furlough in the United States. Pray, also, for the persecuted church all over the world.
- Continue to pray for Claire Hall as she serves the Lord in a scheme in Merkinch, Scotland. Pray particularly their ministry as they are currently in strict lock-down and are looking for opportunity to bring to the people in the scheme the hope and joy that can only be found in Jesus.
- Pray for Kristen in Europe as she ministers there in light of lock-downs that are not allowing for much connection with others. Pray that she will remain healthy and well in light of the difficulties.
- Give thanks that Benny and Liesl Boyed arrived safely in Nepal. Pray that their work there will be fruitful.

DAILY DEVOTION

Memory Text: **James 1:26** — ²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

Heidelberg Catechism 63 Doesn't this doctrine [of justification by faith alone in Christ alone] make mankind careless and profane (unholy)? *By no means: for it is impossible that those who are implanted into Christ by a true faith, should not bring forth fruits of thankfulness.*

Monday: James 1:26-27. What do you think James means by "religion" here (1:18, 22, 2:15-17)? How does he contrast two "religions"? Worthless can mean "unprofitable to the church/community" or "devoid of truth, not unto salvation." How do both provide a strong warning to us? Pray for yourself, the church, others, for a more genuine faith displayed in action (2 Pet 3:14, 1 Tim 6:14).

Tuesday: What example of worthless religion does James give in 1:26? Why might James pick this example first (1:19-21, 3:1, Mt 12:34)? What is the connection between the tongue and the heart? If you have been given a new heart (1:18), how is that "bridling" your tongue (braking, and directing)? Remember who you are, and practice bridling your words, your communication, your writing (Eph 5:1, 4:29-32).

Wednesday: James 1:27. What is God like in Ps 68:5? "Visit" is "to go see a person with helpful intent." "Orphan" is one who has lost one or both parents. What does such action say about the heart's commitment? How do you view, value, and treat the vulnerable around you? How can you visit and value an orphan or widow this week? What does this verse mean by extension?

Thursday: James 1:27. How does "before God" anchor this text in more than just right actions? What is James after in keeping oneself "unstained" from the world? How does the world (godless culture around us) attempt to stain us (your actions, mind, priorities)? Are you really guarding against this? Where and how?

Friday: How does James 1:26-27 picture Christ perfectly? Tongue: Mk 15:5, 1 Pet 2:22f, Mk 1:22. Orphans and widows: Lk 7:11ff, Jn 19:26, Mt 8:2-3, Mt 25:34-46. Unstained: 1 Pet 1:19, Heb 4:15, 7:26, 1 Jn 2:1. How were you once an orphan and widow to God (Deut 24:17-18, John 14:18)? How then is it most fitting that our lives reflect such compassion and care to others?

Saturday: How does James 2:1-7 reflect God's care for the helpless (1:18a), and our call to care for the vulnerable (1:27)?