

Lord's Day Worship

September 4, 2022

*(Asterisk) indicates *Please stand as you are able.*

PRAISE

- * Call to Worship Psalm 97:1,12
- * Opening Hymn "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

RENEWAL

- * Prayer of Confession (unison)

Faithful God, we come before you today as forgetful people. In Jesus Christ, you have done more for us than we could have asked or thought, yet we quickly forget your saving love, and feel angry and bitter when you won't answer our prayers as we want. Instead of remembering your deliverance and running to you daily as our fortress of refuge, we prefer to remain in bondage to our idols, because we love our sins and it seems too hard to fight against them. Father, forgive us. Send your Holy Spirit to stir our hope, that we may live in anticipation of your final victory, through Jesus Christ the Lord. (silent prayer)

- * Assurance of Pardon 1 Timothy 1:15
The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Thanks be to God!

- * Song "A Shield about Me"

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

Doxology

THE WORD OF GOD

- New Testament Reading Ephesians 6:10-13
- * Psalter Hymn "My Rock, My God Most High"
- Psalter Reading Psalm 28
- Sermon "Be Strong in the Lord"

COMMITMENT

- * Affirmation of Faith Q. 1 The Heidelberg Catechism (1563)
What is your only comfort, in life and in death?
That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

- * Song "O How He Loves You and Me"

The Lord's Supper

- * Closing Song "We Trust in You, Our Shield & Our Defender"

- * Benediction

- * Dismissal

Church, where are you going?

We go forth to serve God's world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Glory to God!

"When I Am Weak, Then I Am Strong"

So to keep me from becoming conceited . . . a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me . . . For when I am weak, then I am strong – 2 Cor. 12:7-10 (ESV).

The Apostle Paul had a "thorn in the flesh" – a weakness he couldn't shake. He doesn't tell us what it was, only that to his surprise, Christ showed his strength through that weakness. It's one of the great paradoxes of the gospel: *when I am weak, then I am strong.* Our Lord chooses for you to be weak to protect you from yourself and to cause you to value the strength that only he can give.

The weaknesses he sends your way do not obstruct his loving plan for you. They are not signs of his lack of care, and not a failure of his promises. They are not evidence that the Bible contradicts itself when it says that God will meet all your needs. No, our weaknesses are tools of his zealous and amazing grace. They protect you from the arrogance of self-reliance that tempts us all. They remind you that you are needy and were created to be dependent on One greater than you. Our weaknesses cause us to do what all of us resist doing – humbly run to God for the help and strength that only he can give.

Your weaknesses are not a danger you should fear. What we should really fear is our delusions of strength. When you imagine that you are strong, you close yourself to God's rescuing, transforming, and empowering grace. Paul actually celebrated his weakness, because as he did, the power of God rested upon him. He didn't live a fearful and discouraged life. He was content because he knew weakness is the doorway to real power – the power that only God can supply.

Pastor Phil Moran



CHRIST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“...so that Jesus Christ might come to have first place in everything.” Colossians 1:18 (b) NRSV

September 4, 2022 | Rev. Phil Moran
“Be Strong in the Lord”
Psalm 28

Pastor – Phil Moran | Associate Pastor – Douglas Kortyna

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