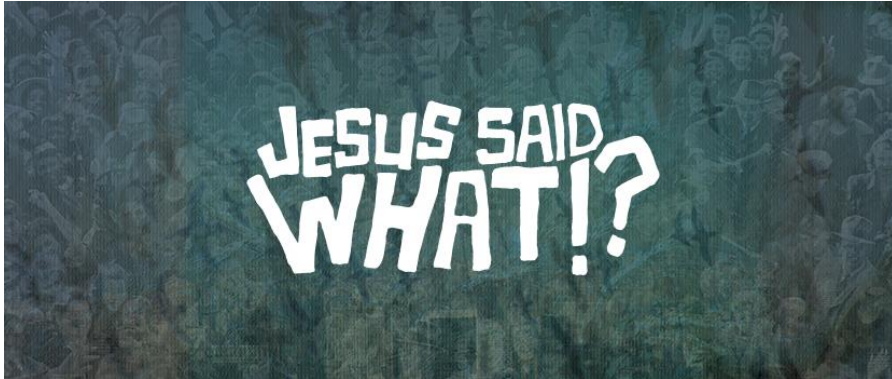


COVENANT CHURCH OF THOMASTON

We exist to:
Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ
Share Life with Each Other
Reach the World in His Name



September 8, 2024

Worship 10:00 am

“Jesus Said WHAT?! Anger Is Like Murder?”

Matthew 5:21-24

Pastor:

Rev. Stephanie Nelson

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PRELUDE Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

WELCOME AND LIFE TOGETHER Cathy Fredlund

CALL TO WORSHIP t) The Power of the Cross

The past that held regret over my head is gone.

These chains are ashes now that once were rusted on.

I was a runaway; now I am finally home.

My mind was a ghost town, haunted by yesterday

Until your hand reached down, pulled me out of my grave

Into the freedom found only in Jesus' name.

(chorus 1) I am forgiven, no longer lost.

Now I am living in the power of the cross.

The Father gave his Son so I could be set free,

And now the scales are gone. My eyes can finally see.

I'll tell the world of all Jesus has done for me.

(chorus 2) I am forgiven, no longer lost.

Now I am living in the power of the cross.

Goodbye to sorrow; welcome my joy.

Now I am living in the power of the cross.

(bridge) And on that cross his love held true,

Through sacrifice, the old made new.

This life I live, I live in faith now

in Jesus' name.

(chorus 3) I am forgiven, no longer lost.

Now I am living in the power of the cross.

Goodbye to sorrow (goodbye to sorrow),

Welcome my joy (welcome my joy)

Now I am living

(yes, I'm living) in the power of the cross.

(tag) Thank you, O God, I thank you.

Jesus, I thank you. Thank you for the cross.

Praise you, O God, I praise you.

Jesus, I praise you, praise you for the cross.

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Words and music by: Brett Younker, Brooke Ligertwood,

John Mark Hall, Kristian Stanfill, and Scott Ligertwood | CCLI 1481213

God, You're So Good

- Amazing love that welcomes me,

The kindness of mercy,

- That bought with blood, wholeheartedly,

My soul undeserving.

(chorus) God, you're so good.

Oh God, you're so good; God, you're so good.

You're so good to me

- Behold the cross, age to age

And hour by hour.

- The dead are raised, the sinner saved,

The work of your power. *(chorus) (chorus)*

(bridge) I am blessed; I am called;

I am healed; I am whole;

I am saved in Jesus' name.

Highly favored, anointed, Filled with your power,

For the glory of Jesus' name. *(repeat bridge)*

- And should this life bring suffering,

Lord, I will remember

- What Calvary has bought for me,

Both now and forever.

(chorus) (chorus) (bridge) (chorus)

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PRAYER OF ADORATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER Cathy Chung

HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD (Congregation reads **bold**)

Psalms 139

Liz Montambault

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;

you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;

you are familiar with all my ways.

For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you

when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body;

**all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.**

Hymn # 87 (v. 1,2,3,5)

Children of the Heavenly Father

OFFERING – GIVE AS THE LORD LEADS YOU, WITH OPEN HANDS

AND ALL YOUR HEART

Cathy Fredlund

Offertory: Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

*Doxology (blue hymnal #48 (Congregation sings **bold**))

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus, Friend of Sinners

SERMON

Cathy Chung

“Jesus Said WHAT?!! Anger Is Like Murder?”

Matthew 5:21-24

SENDING SONG Glorious Day (Passion)

I was buried beneath my shame.

Who could carry that kind of weight?

It was my tomb 'til I met you!

I was breathing, but not alive.

All my failures I tried to hide.

It was my tomb 'til I met you!

(chorus) You called my name.

Then I ran out of that grave,

Out of the darkness into your glorious day.

You called my name.

Then I ran out of that grave,

Out of the darkness into your glorious day.

Now your mercy has saved my soul.

Now your freedom is all that I know.

The old made new, Jesus, when I met you. *(chorus)*

(bridge) I needed rescue. My sin was heavy,
But chains break at the weight of your glory.
I needed shelter. I was an orphan,
But you call me a citizen of Heaven.
When I was broken, you were my healing.
Now your love is the air that I'm breathing.
I have a future. My eyes are open. (chorus)

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Words and music by Jason Ingram, Jonathan Smith,
Kristian Stanfill, and Sean Curran | CCLI 1481213

***BENEDICTION** Cathy Chung
***POSTLUDE** Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

TODAY

10:00 am Worship
Nursery: Lori Vigeant

- **Pastor Stephanie** is in Chicago for a doctoral class this week (9/2-13) and also will be at the Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Pines (9/13-15). If you need pastoral care during this time, contact Church Chair John Bedosky or Diaconate Chair Cathy Fredlund or any Diaconate member.
- **Our Speaker** this morning is Cathy Chung. She is a writer, speaker, and lay pastor seeking ordination after completing a Masters of Theological Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She is an empty-nester who lives near Boston. Cathy loves to write, preach, and speak at women's events, and she has a heart for pastoral care. She believes spending regular time in God's Word, developing a personal relationship through prayer, and following his guiding voice will lead to a meaningful life beyond our expectations. You can find her website at seedsofscripture.com.

THIS WEEK

Mon.. 10:45 am 39ers Study (Fellowship Room)
6:30 pm Zumba (Potter's House)
Tue. 6:30 pm Prayer (Church Office)
Wed. 6:30 pm NA (Fellowship Room)
Fri. 6:00 pm Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)

Sat. 10:00 am "Chosen" Group (Fellowship Room)
Sun. 9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship
4:00 pm Ice Cream Social & Registration for Sunday school and youth programs

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- **Zumba is moving** to Mondays, 6:30 pm, in the Potter's House.
- **Sunday School returns** next Sunday, September 15!
- **Ice Cream Social and Youth Program Registration.** Come on Sunday, September 15, 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Room to register your children for Sunday School and the youth groups.

LAY READERS

- **A new schedule** for lay readers is being prepared for October and the months following. If you would like to be added to the rotation, contact Ruth Johnson.

39ERS STUDY

The 39ers Study begins again tomorrow, 10:45 to 11:45 am in the Fellowship Room. We will start with a short study of the book of Ruth. Join us!

"CHOSEN" GROUP

- **The group** viewing "The Chosen" episodes meets on Saturday mornings at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Room (except for breakfast at Esme's & Ruby's the fourth Saturday of the month). All are invited. Tea will be available!

QUARTERLY MEETING CHANGE

- The date for the Quarterly meeting of the congregation is postponed to October 13, 11:30 after worship in the Sanctuary.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

- The ECCWM Fall Retreat at Pilgrim Pines is September 13-15! The Rev. Dr. Devyn Chambers-Johnson will speak on "This Is My Story" – living and proclaiming the Good News. Pastor Stephanie is leading worship for the retreat and teaching a session on spiritual gifts.

DIACONATE

- **The RSV Bibles** that were removed from the pews are in boxes in the conference room. You are welcome to take as many as you need before we give them away.

FINANCIAL LIFE SEMINAR

- **Financial Life in Order Class:** Wills, Trusts, Money Management?! Getting your financial life in order can free you to do what God's called you to do. Covenant Trust, a financial services organization serving the ministries, members, and friends of the Evangelical Covenant Church, will present this one-time seminar on September 27 at 6:00 pm.

A financial life in order means building a financial plan that allows you to save money, afford the things you really want, and achieve long-term goals like saving for college and retirement. In this presentation, we'll discuss the components that make up a smart financial plan including saving, investing and estate planning and why you need them in your financial plan.

Light snacks and drinks will be available. All are welcome! Invite your friends.

GIVING MADE EASY

- Give online in two minutes. Opt for one time, weekly or monthly donations. Open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR Code, which takes you to the Giving Page on our website.

Covenant Church of Thomaston
Giving Page QR Code



BANQUET OF BLESSING

- **Need:** cereal, grape jelly, strawberry jelly, paper towels.
- **No perishable foods. Check expiration dates.** We don't give away out of date food.
- **No canned mixed vegetables or vegetarian vegetable soup right now.**