

# First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley Worship Bulletin October 10, 2021

## Welcome / Call to Worship

*Rev. Mark Stryker*

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: Who made heaven and earth.**

One: This is the day of God's making;

**All: We rejoice and find gladness in this!**

One: O come let us sing and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Yes, let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.**

One: O praise the Lord with me,

**All: Let us exalt the holy name of our God together.**

## Song: The King Has Come

He came so we could know the father's love  
The savior, the healer  
He came to seek and save all that was lost  
Restorer, redeemer  
Light in the darkness, help to the helpless  
A song for those who mourn  
Strength for the weary, friend to the lonely  
He's the joy of the whole earth

The king has come,  
the glorious, the awesome, son of God,  
the beautiful the sovereign Lord of love  
Jesus, the king has come

He came to speak the message of new birth  
Creator, sustainer  
He came to bring his rule upon the earth  
with justice and mercy  
His ways are higher, his love is greater  
than the treasures of this world  
His grace is wider, his name is stronger

He's the joy of the whole earth

This is the day, this is the time  
Let the kingdom of our God reign

The King Has Come  
Eoghan Heaslip, Neil Bennetts  
CCLI Song # 5322936 © 2008 Thankyou Music

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Rev. Tom Elson*

One: From everything in us that may hide your light;  
**All: O God, deliver us.**

One: From selfishness, self-indulgence, or self-pity;  
**All: O God, deliver us.**

One: From being satisfied with things as they are,  
in the church or in the world;  
from failing to share your indignation about injustice;  
**All: O God, deliver us.**

One: From cynicism about others;  
from intolerance or cruel indifference;  
**All: O God, deliver us.**

One: From cowardice that dares not face truth;  
laziness content with half-truth;  
or arrogance that thinks we know it all;  
**All: O God, deliver us.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, believe the Good News:  
**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

**Scripture: Genesis 18:16-19:11, 24-29**

Then the men [who visited Abraham and Sarah] set out from there, and they looked towards Sodom; and Abraham went with them to set them on their way.

The Lord said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? No, for I have chosen him, that he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice; so that the Lord may bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.'

Then the Lord said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.'

So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' And the Lord said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.'

Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.'

Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' He answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.' He said, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.' And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed down with his face to the ground. He said, 'Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you can rise early and go on your way.' They said, 'No; we will spend the night in the square.' But he urged them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house; and they called to Lot, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we may know them.' Lot went out of the door to the men, shut the door after him, and said, 'I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. Look, I have two daughters who have not known a man; let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please; only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof.' But they replied, 'Stand back!' And they said, 'This fellow came here as an alien, and he would play the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them.' Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near the door to break it down. But the men inside reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. And they struck with blindness the men who were at the door of the house, both small and great, so that they were unable to find the door.

Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulphur and fire from the Lord out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord; and he looked down towards Sodom and Gomorrah and towards all the land of the Plain, and saw the smoke of the land going up like the smoke of a furnace.

So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had settled.

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon: For Their Sake**

*Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell*

### **Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer**

*Michelle Vecchio-Lyzenga*

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.

## **Call to Give**

### **Song: Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God**

Holy Spirit, living breath of God,  
breathe new life into my willing soul  
Let the presence of the risen Lord  
come renew my heart and make me whole  
Cause your word to come alive in me,  
give me faith for what I cannot see,  
give me passion for your purity  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me

Holy Spirit, come abide within;  
may your joy be seen in all I do  
Love enough to cover every sin  
in each thought and deed and attitude  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,  
gentleness that sows the path of peace  
Turn my strivings into works of grace  
Breath of God show Christ in all I do

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth  
giving life to all that God has made  
Show your power once again on earth,  
cause your church to hunger for your ways  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise,  
lead us on the road of sacrifice  
that in unity the face of Christ  
may be clear for all the world to see

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God  
Keith Getty, Stuart Townend  
CCLI Song # 4779872 © 2006 Thankyou Music

## **Benediction**

*Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell*