



Sunday, September 24, 2023

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Acts 9:1-20 (NIV)

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Sara Woodbury & Bob Ganse, Kathy & Doug Hengst, Dianna Bock, Alice Weaver

Ushers: Randy Heller, Gary & Sandy Cross, Joyce Shaffer, John Holtzapple

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Anita & Ken Bongartz, in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary

Jane Hartin, in memory of her mother Ann Wardlow

John & Nancy Holtzapple, in celebration of family

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Bell Prelude

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

arr. D. Wagner

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

* Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: Sing a song of thanksgiving.

People: Declare God's wondrous deeds.

Leader: For the Lord dwells among the people;

All: The glory of God abides with us.

* Opening Hymn #155

"Rejoice, The Lord Is King"

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer of Confession

Will Massey

Almighty God, we look for you in all the wrong places, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless. We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place. Forgive us for letting our agendas take precedence over our compassion. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored. In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon (Colossians 1:19-20)

Will Massey

Leader: In Ephesians it is written: By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing it is the gift of God. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

Will Massey

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*At this time, children through 6th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Choral Anthem	"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"	arr. D. Elrich
Scripture Reading	Acts 9:1-20	Sean Gazdziak
Message	"Keeping in Step with the Spirit"	Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer	Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne
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.	

Invitation to the Offering	Rev. Allison Beaulieu
<i>Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex</i>	

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #357	"O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee "
* Charge and Benediction	Rev. Allison Beaulieu
* Choral Benediction	"Irish Blessing"
Postlude	

* PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST
DANIEL DROZ, BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR
A/V: MARK ANDERSON, GUS BEAULIEU, JOHN HOLTZAPPLE, JERRY ROTHACKER

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.
FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.