



Sunday, October 29, 2023

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'"

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Acts 17:16-34 (NIV)

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Tom Whitworth, Betty & Bob Rishel, Reist Family, Trixi Ray

Ushers: Michel Gibeault, Donna Kinsey, Robert & Johanna Gingher, David Regensburger

The white rose recognizes and bears witness to the life and memory of Frances Kaufmann

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Elizabeth Hess, in memory of her mother Jeanne S. Reese

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Choir Prelude

"Gloria in Excelsis from the 12th Mass"

by. W.A. Mozart

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.

Minute For Mission - Giving Tree

Ginny Miller

* Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song!

People: Sing to the Lord all the earth!

Leader: Sing to the Lord; praise his name.

People: Proclaim his salvation day after day.

Leader: For great is the Lord!

People: And greatly to be praised!

* Opening Hymn #144

"Alleluia! Sing To Jesus!"

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not always loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when things get hard. We have not always loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect our children who are vulnerable and precious in your sight. And forgive our misuse of power against people and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Set us free from fear so that we may wholly trust in you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

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

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Leader: Remember the words from the prophet Jeremiah, "Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when...I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts and I will be their God, and they shall be my people...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

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 4th 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.*

Baptism

Vivian Leighann March
Daughter of Jason and Addison March

Hymn #492

"Baptized in Water"

Scripture Reading

Acts 17:16-34

Message

"Earning the Right to be Heard"

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer

Will Massey

**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

Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

* Closing Hymn

"How Can I Keep From Singing"

* Charge and Benediction

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

*Congregational Response

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace;
I can hear the brush of angels' wings; I see glory in each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Postlude

* PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

**MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST
A/V: MARK ANDERSON, GUS BEAULIEU**

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.