



Sunday, October 8, 2023

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked,

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Acts 16:16-34 (NIV)

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Glenda Burross, Eileen & Harry Flick, Mary & Jack Hynd, Amy, Adam, Cameron & Addison Kane

Ushers: Johnny Wood, Gary & Sandy Cross, Sara Shank, Joyce Shaffer

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Tom & Sharon Kennedy, in memory of their parents
Wendell Stockdale, Sr., in memory of Wendell Stockdale, Jr.

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

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.*

Crop Walk Video

* Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: Come, let us praise God together

People: in the company of his gathered people.

Leader: For the works of our God are unparalleled.

People: Everything He does reveals his glory and majesty.

Leader: Our God is full of grace and mercy,

People: and his righteousness never fails.

All: Let us worship the Lord!

* Opening Hymn #356 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

Merciful and Everlasting God, in Jesus you have come to set us free. So many times we allow ourselves to be held captive by sin; and we find ourselves chained to things that don't give us life. Forgive our trust in idols and our enslavement to sin. Set us free, O God, to enjoy your grace. Deliver us from sin so we can serve you and you alone. In Jesus' name 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. Robert Burns

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

Rev. Dr. Robert 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.**

Reception of New Members

At this time, children ages 4 through 4th grade are invited to remain with their grown-ups in the Sanctuary until they are Dismissed for Sunday School during the service.. 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	“Stand by Me”	arr. by Benjamin Harlan
Scripture Reading	Acts 16:16-34	Rev. Allison Beaulieu
Message	“Living as Free and Forgiven People”	Rev. Allison Beaulieu
Vocalist Solo	“Were it not for Grace” by David Hamilton and Phill Mchugh	Daniel LaRue

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

**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
Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

* Closing Hymn “Amazing Grace” (My chains are gone) arr. Hillsong

* 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.