

Last Sunday of the Church Year
“Fact: Character Beats Circumstances”
Pastor Kal Waetzig
Nov. 21, 2021

Scripture: Habakkuk 3:17-19, Heb.12:25-29, Luke 10:21-24

Welcome & Invocation: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introit – Based on 2 Peter and Psalm 39

P: We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth

C: the home of righteousness.

P: Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days;

C: let me know how fleeting is my life.

P: You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you.

C: Each man’s life is but a breath.

P: But now, Lord, what do I look for?

C: My hope is in you.

P: Save me from all my transgressions;

C: do not make me the scorn of fools.

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord, listen to my cry for help;

C: be not deaf to my weeping.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: and to the Holy Spirit;

P: as it was in the beginning,

C: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,

C: the home of righteousness.

Collect

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth your Son, we pray, that he may lead home his bride, the Church, that we with all the redeemed may enter into your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

10:00 a.m. – Opening Songs: Stacey Minor
House Of The Lord
10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

The Old Testament Lesson ... Habakkuk 3: 17-19

Habakkuk Rejoices in the LORD

¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom,

nor fruit be on the vines,

the produce of the olive fail

and the fields yield no food,

the flock be cut off from the fold

and there be no herd in the stalls,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD;

I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength;

he makes my feet like the deer's;

he makes me tread on my high places.

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. ESV

The Second Lesson ... Hebrews 12: 25-29

²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire. ESV

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 10, beginning at verse 21

Jesus Rejoices in the Father's Will

²¹ In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

²³ Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” ESV

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the

prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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I Thess 5:16-18, “¹⁶ **Rejoice always,** ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ **give thanks in all circumstances;** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” ESV

I. Thank the Lord for His C_____

II. Thankfulness Beyond C_____

Habakkuk 3:17-18, “Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.” ESV

III. Let T_____ Spring From God’s Character PK: Fact – Character beats Circumstances.

Our ultimate source of thanksgiving comes from focusing on what God has revealed about himself in His Word, shown most clearly in the person of Jesus Christ.

His L_____

“God bestows His blessings without discrimination. The followers of Jesus are children of God, and they should manifest the family likeness by doing good to all, even to those who deserve the opposite.”—F.F. Bruce

His P_____

“Quite honestly, most people are quick to “write someone

off.” But our God is a God of the second chance. Learn from One who is patient with you, and you’ll learn to be patient with others.” –Woodrow Kroll

His S _____

“Since no man is excluded from calling upon God the gate of salvation is open to all. There is nothing else to hinder us from entering, but our own unbelief.” –John Calvin

His S _____

“What does it really mean to affirm God’s sovereignty...? It means that God rules over all space and time and history. It means that He created the world for His glory and directs the cosmos to His purpose. It means that no one can truly thwart His plans or frustrate His determination. It means that we are secure in the knowledge that God’s sovereign purpose to redeem a people through the atonement accomplished by His Son will be fully realized.” –Al Mohler

His W _____

“Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it. Wisdom is, in fact, the practical side of moral goodness. As such, it is found in its fulness only in God. He alone is naturally and entirely and invariable wise.”
–J. I. Packer

His M _____

“The mercy of God is an all-embracing mercy and it breaks down the barriers that man erects.” –Allstair Begg

His S _____

“Everything about God is great, vast, incomparable. He never forgets, never fails, never falters, never forfeits His word.”
–Arthur W. Pink

(notes: Character, Circumstances, Thankfulness, Love, Patience, Salvation, Sovereignty, Wisdom, Mercy, Steadfastness)

Prayers / Holy Communion / Confession / Absolution

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you
May the Lord, lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace. Amen.

10:00 a.m. – Closing Song – Stacey Minor
Give Thanks

Conclusion – Thanks Leaf – Note One Character of God

Announcements

Join us for our **Fall Membership Meeting** in the Church TODAY after the 10:00 am worship service. We will be electing 2022 Church leadership & giving an update on our ministries. All welcome to attend meeting. Church members only are eligible to vote.

National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child is Nov. 15-22. Your boxes can be dropped off to the Admin Ofc. on Monday, 11/22 from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm. Volunteers are needed during collection hours & to drive cartons to Manteca. Contact Michele Loomis at 209-401-0562 if you can help.

Our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** is on Wednesday, November 24 at 7:00 pm in the Church. Come for an evening of worship & thankfulness.

Earl Hove's memorial service is being held at St. Paul's on Saturday, November 27 at 1:00 pm. A dessert reception will follow in the Life Center. Cookie donations welcome.

Join us as we **decorate the Church for Christmas** on Sunday, November 28, following the close of the 10:00 am worship service.

Join **BVCA & the Stockton Heat for Faith Night** on Friday, December 3 at 7:00 pm. \$10 per person. There will be a postgame concert featuring Mike Donehey of Tenth Avenue North. Pick up an order form in the entryway. Return form & payment to Admin office by 11/29.

Interested in joining our Sunday Morning Greeting Team? Contact Judy Castellon at 209-814-7110 for more information on welcoming our attendees, handing out bulletins, Communion distribution and more!

Our next **Mite Box Sunday** will be on December 5. Bring your filled Mite Box to church & empty it into the large mite box in the church entryway after each service. We will be collecting mites the first Sunday of each month. Checks are accepted, please make out to St. Paul's.

Come and visit Bella Vista Christian Academy. We provide Christian education for Preschoolers - 8th grade. Voted #1 in Tracy for four years in a row! We'd like an opportunity to have you learn more about our programs. Check the Bella Vista box on the connection card, provide your phone number & we'll contact you.

Just in time for Christmas! Bella Vista's Scrip program is both an electronic and physical gift card option that provides an opportunity to support our school and earn cash back toward a student's tuition. Gift cards can be purchased online and instantly credited toward your account for use as you pay for your items! One can place an order for the physical cards once per month, to be picked up in the Church office around the 15th. We will place Christmas gift card orders on 11/30/21 and 12/10/21. Encourage friends and family to help our school by purchasing Scrip. Contact Pam McCain for info at pmccain@stpaulstracy.org.

St. Paul's / Bella Vista Christian Academy is looking to hire for a couple positions:

- Part-time lunch duty staff - we are looking for a person 2 - 5 days a week from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. *School days only.
- Preschool afternoon teacher - we are looking for 1-2 teachers to work up to 20 hours a week. This candidate would need 6-12 Early Childhood Credits.

If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please contact our office at 209-835-7438. You can speak with Dave Schnurstein, Lori Waetzig or Pam McCain.

This week at St. Paul's

Sunday, 11/21

8:30 am & 10:00 am - Worship Service - Church
10:00 am - Live Stream of In-Person Church
11:00 am - Fall Membership Meeting - Church
11:00 am - Youth Group - Youth Room

Monday, 11/22

6:30 pm - Grief Share - Parish Hall

Wednesday, 11/24

7:00 pm - Thanksgiving Eve Service - Church

Thursday & Friday, 11/25 & 26

Office closed for holiday

Saturday, 11/27

1:00 pm - Earl Hove memorial service & reception - Church & Life Center

Sunday, 11/28

8:30 am & 10:00 am - Worship Service - Church
10:00 am - Live Stream of In-Person Church
11:00 am - Decorate the Church for Christmas - Church
11:00 am - Youth Group - Youth Room

Join us as a church body as we **read through the scriptures**. Here is our reading schedule (Year 2) for the week of November 22:

Monday, November 22

Luke 6 & Jonah 1

Tuesday, November 23

Luke 7 & Jonah 2

Wednesday, November 24

Luke 8 & Jonah 3

Thursday, November 25

Luke 9 & Jonah 4

Friday, November 26

Luke 10 & Micah 1

Saturday, November 27

Luke 11 & Micah 2

Sunday, November 28

Luke 12 & Micah 3

Remember in Prayer

James Broadwater - Healing (son of Broadwaters)
Robert Brown - Healing & recovery
Jim Buckley - Healing & recovery (friend of Ramirez's)
Darralee - Healing (friend of Jo Culberson)
Carol Devine - Recovery
Edgar Esteban - Healing
Kelly Ferree - Treatments (brother of Janis MacDonald)
Gale Heinrich - Healing
George Horne - Restored health
Vi Kramer - Healing
Megan Krause - Treatments (wife of Matt Krause)
Dennis Maddix - Bone cancer, strength & healing (husband of Martha Maddix)
John McLaughlin - Recovery
Joan Mehring - Recovery
Lola Lee Mohr - Peace & comfort (mother of Laura Mohr)
Alletta Parker - Transition to assisted living (mom of Lorraine Hall)
Maggie Pedersen - Healing (mother of Aimee Gates)
Joyce Pulliam - Recovery
Sue Renner - Chronic neck pain
Maria Rhodes - Recovery
Quentin Rios - Successful treatments for cancer (extended family of Gamaches)
Olivia Scheuerlein - Recovery & medical discernment (great grandchild of Gayle Scheuerlein)
Jon & Debbie Schmidt - General prayers
Rolly Skarloken - Restored health
Marty Stipp - Restored health
Barbara Vierra - Healing (friend of Jo Culberson)
Wright Family - Comfort for family & restored health (friends of Traci McClain)