

## April 19-Written Service

**Praise Team-** Deb and Vern Van Peurse, Jeremy Russell, Collen Turner, Merlin Thompson, Jeremiah Thompson

**Special Music-** PRC Choir

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Call to Worship

Leader: The city of Jericho was tightly shut up; no one went out and no one came in. The walls were too high and the victory impossible

All: But the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands!"

Leader: God's ways are not our ways. He calls us to march in faith and trust in His power.

All: We come to worship the God who fights our battles!

Leader: Let us worship the Lord with shouts of joy, for He brings down every wall.

All: Praise the Lord!

### Song: Shout to the Lord

Shout to the Lord, all the earth,

Let us sing

Power and majesty,

Praise to the King;

Mountains bow down

And the seas will roar

At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy

At the work of Your hands,

Forever I'll love You,

Forever I'll stand;

Nothing compares to the promise

I have in You.

My Jesus, my Savior,

Lord, there is none like You;

All of my days I want to praise

The wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my Shelter,  
Tower of refuge and strength;  
Let every breath, all that I am,  
Never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
Let us sing  
Power and majesty,  
Praise to the King;

Mountains bow down  
And the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy  
At the work of Your hands,  
Forever I'll love You,  
Forever I'll stand;

Nothing compares  
To the promise I have in You.

### **Prayer**

**Song: You are my All in All**  
You are my strength when I am weak;  
You are the treasure that I seek.  
You are my all in all.

Seeking You as a precious jewel;  
Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool.  
You are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is Your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is Your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame;  
Rising again, I bless Your name.

You are my all in all.

When I fall down You pick me up;  
When I am dry you fill my cup.  
You are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is Your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is Your name.

### **Announcements**

**Special Music: "Spirituals Medley" Arr. Beery sung by the PRC Choir. Soloists: Katie Kirby and Jeremy Russell**

### **Congregational Prayer**

**Song: #682- Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

VERSE 1

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim thru this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand:

Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.  
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through;

Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Bear me through the swelling current,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side:

Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee,  
I will ever give to Thee.

### **Offering/Offertory**

**Offering song:**

**Offering Prayer**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Scripture: Joshua 6: 1-23**

Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. <sup>3</sup>March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup>Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. <sup>5</sup>When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

<sup>6</sup>So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." <sup>7</sup>And he ordered the army, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD."

<sup>8</sup>When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. <sup>9</sup>The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. <sup>10</sup>But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" <sup>11</sup>So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

<sup>12</sup>Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. <sup>14</sup>So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

<sup>15</sup>On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. <sup>16</sup>The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! <sup>17</sup>The city and all that is in it are to be devoted<sup>[a]</sup> to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. <sup>18</sup>But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. <sup>19</sup>All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

<sup>20</sup>When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. <sup>21</sup>They

devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

<sup>22</sup>Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” <sup>23</sup>So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

### **Message**

Intro-RU Darby

At the height of the Gold Rush a man (RU Darby) and his uncle caught the gold fever  
They staked a claim out in Colorado, explored their land, and found gold  
They were told it had the potential to be one of the biggest in the area  
So they secured investors, bought equipment, and began mining the gold  
Soon the vein of gold ran out, they dug a little more but quickly got discouraged and gave up

Their equipment was sold to a junk man for a few hundred dollars  
That junk man, talked to an expert who told him the fault lines had shifted and predicted that the vein of gold would reappear in about 3 ft from where they had quit digging  
When they restarted the mining, gold was found exactly where they were told  
And they pulled millions of dollars of gold out of the same mine that Darby and his people had abandoned

As we read our story this morning, I want you to keep Darby’s story in the back of your mind

Scripture-Joshua 6:1-23

Here’s what caught my attention while reading through this passage this time

The first 6 days-

“March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup>Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark.”

<sup>6</sup>So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” <sup>7</sup>And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.”

<sup>8</sup>When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord’s covenant followed them. <sup>9</sup>The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. <sup>10</sup>But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” <sup>11</sup>So he had the ark of the Lord carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

<sup>12</sup>Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. <sup>13</sup>The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. <sup>14</sup>So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

Every morning

They woke up and got on all their armor

They lined up in order

Ark in the middle, priests in front of that, soldiers in front and behind

They marched around the city once, the priests blew trumpets everyone else was silent

Then they went back to camp and waited for the next morning

They did this 6 days in a row

But Joshua doesn't tell them how long this will go on, not specifically

They're going to do this until he tells them they can shout

We know how long God told Joshua to do this, but we don't have any evidence of him letting the Israelites know

## Day 7

<sup>15</sup> On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. <sup>16</sup> The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!

<sup>20</sup> When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Finally on day 7, the routine changes up and things get exciting

Which brings us to my question, why did they have to wait until the 7<sup>th</sup> day?

Oddly enough, when I started looking into this, I found that John Calvin asked a similar question

Calvin-for why does He not order them suddenly to attack the city? Why does he keep them in their former silence, even to weariness, and not open their mouths to shout? But the happy fruit of this endurance teaches us, that there is nothing better than to leave the decisive moments and opportunities of acting at His disposal, and not, by our haste, anticipate His providence, in which, if we acquiesce not, we obstruct the course of His agency.

## Nate

A good friend of mine once used the phrase "don't quit before the miracle"

Sometimes popular saying in recovery circles

Valuable for all of us though and I really appreciated him saying it to me when I needed to hear it

The Israelites were doing the work that was asked of them day after day

With no fruit and seemingly no point to what they kept doing

Then morning came and they had to do it all over again

It would have been tempting to sleep in or to do literally anything else

Something that felt more productive or at least more enjoyable

## What this looks like for us

Some days life feels like going through the motions

Doing the right things because they're the right things, even if you don't see any progress or reward for your efforts

We start looking for ROI, return on investment  
Why would we keep digging when the mine is empty? Or walking around these walls  
when nothing is happening?

Put in practical terms

I didn't take a drink when I wanted to but I'm still at rock bottom  
I prayed but my loved one is still sick  
I told that person about Jesus but they didn't believe  
You can write your own, you've all had times where it feels like the payoff, the miracle,  
will never happen

And I'm guessing we've all had times where we just was to give up

Or change plans

We don't want to do the right things over and over without seeing the reward

We love watching the Olympics, but never see the decades or day after day  
grinding work, early mornings, and intentional diets

Calvin reminds us to trust that God's timing is better than ours

My friend reminds all of us that there are miracles waiting out there

Miracles that we'll never experience if we give up

**Song: #435- God of Grace and God of Glory (vs. 1,2,4)**

God of grace and God of glory,  
On Thy people pour Thy power.  
Crown Thine ancient Church's story;  
Bring her bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom;  
Grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The host of evil round us  
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom;  
Grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be

Armored with all Christlike graces  
In the fight to set men free.

Grant us wisdom,  
Grant us courage  
That we fail not man nor Thee.  
That we fail not man nor Thee.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**