

April 26- Written Service

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Special music- PRC Bells

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Many have written and spoken of the many things God has fulfilled among us.

All: We gather to remember the good news passed down to us.

Leader: From the beginning, God's hand has been at work with care and purpose.

All: We come with gratitude to ground our hearts in this solid truth.

Leader: Let us worship the God of our salvation,

All: So that we may know the certainty of the things we have been taught.

Song: Thy Word

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid,

And I think I've lost my way,

Still You're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear

As long as You are near.

Please be with me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

I will not forget Your love for me

And yet, my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;

I will love You to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

Prayer

Song: Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing Hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who send the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord,
Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy,
When Christ is ours for evermore.

O sing hallelujah!
Our hope sprigs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

Announcements

Special music: God is so Good/Jesus Loves Me played by the PRC bells

Congregational prayer

Song: #295- Tell Me the Story of Jesus (vs. 1,2)

Tell me the story of Jesus;
Write on my heart every word.
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Tell how the angels in chorus
Sang as they welcomed His birth:
"Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth."

Tell me the story of Jesus;
Write on my heart every word.
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Fasting alone in the desert,
Tell of the days that are past,
How for our sins He was tempted,
Yet was triumphant at last.

Tell of the years of His labor,
Tell of the sorrow He bore.
He was despised and afflicted,
Homeless, rejected, and poor.

Tell me the story of Jesus;
Write on my heart every word.
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Offering/Offertory

Offering song: Spirit of the Living God

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Luke 1: 1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Message

Series intro

What we're doing

People sometimes ask, or at least wonder, how we pick what we talk about each week
Honestly, there's no one way, but it feels like the Holy Spirit kind of guides us
through different conversations, thoughts that stick with you, passages we've
read recently, etc

One of the benefits there is that it produces a variety of types of series
Old Testament Easter Egg prophecies
Colors associated with Christmas
A while ago we did a series on piles of rocks in the Bible
One thing I always like to have in the mix every so often is to work
through an entire book of the Bible
We've done Jonah, Philippians, Malachi, and several others
But it's been on my heart for a while to do something longer, specifically
one of the gospels that tell the story of Jesus' life and ministry
Today we launch into a series on the gospel of Luke

Why

We're going through a gospel (one of the 4 biographies of Jesus we find in Scripture)
because Jesus is important

The Old Testament points ahead to Him, the NT is centered on Him
To be a Christian means having a relationship with Jesus
The danger and tendency is that when we don't pay attention to Jesus as He's
revealed in the Bible, we create our own pictures of who He is
And we tend to make Jesus just someone who reinforces what I already think or
want rather than a Jesus who corrects and challenges us like He did with people
in Biblical times

Of the gospels, we're choosing Luke

Each of the gospels has their own style and purpose
Mark is shorter, faster paced
John focuses more on the spiritual aspect of what's happening and uses
more metaphors
Matthew ties things in to the Old Testament and has a Jewish audience
in mind
Luke is more historical, includes more details and stories not always
found everywhere else, we'll talk more about who Luke is and what His
focus will be in a little bit

But I liked the attention to detail, the level He writes at, and the
way it fits in with our lives today

If you haven't spent time in the other gospels as well, I highly
recommend them too, but we have to start somewhere

How-a quick housekeeping word about how we're studying Luke together

Reading plan

Copies out front, emailed this week as well, rather than working through Luke
only on Sundays, I'm encouraging you to read a small chunk each day as we
move through the book

For a longer book like this, to do it only on Sundays would take more than a year
I also like the idea of staying consistent in Luke a little each day

Do if you're on vacation, you can still follow along with the rest of Peace
If you miss a Sunday, you'll know what we're all reading

Journals

I don't always (or often) journal, but I like that practice for certain times and purposes

There's a pile of notebooks out front (or you can use any notebook you like)

As you read each day, make a note with that day's passage and what stood out to you, what questions did you have, how can you put this into practice, what did God say to you?

Opportunities for shared responses (questions to discuss each week, thoughts/applications to share in newsletter)

To carry it a step further

Invite you to share some of what you experience with the rest of the congregation

It can be anonymous, but doesn't have to be

If you have questions that come up during the week, email those to me and if we're able we can address them either on a Sunday morning or by having a conversation

If you have some thoughts or applications from a passage, those have the potential of encouraging or inspiring someone else as well-email those to Renee and we'll pull them together each week in the newsletter

This is a way that we can take this journey together over the summer

I'm excited about this as something different and a real opportunity for us to grow together as we soak in the story of Jesus

Scripture-Luke 1:1-4

Author-Luke

Luke was a physician and scholar

He was close associate of Paul

Luke most likely a Gentile

Uses strong Hellenistic form

Highly educated Greek language usage

Refers to Aramaic as "their language" rather than "our language"

Several times in Acts (which he also wrote) he uses "we" for times when we know Luke was with Paul

Luke not a 1st person witness to Jesus' life

Prologue talks about researching and interviewing 1st hand people

Similar to what the news does

Reporters are credible, but almost never on hand when the events break out

Possibly for later on once things have kept unfolding

Luke was there in person for some of the events in Acts that he writes about

Purpose/theme

“Orderly account” so that “you can be certain” about what is being taught about Jesus

Luke is serious about the accuracy of what he writes

He talks about witnesses to these events

He has already been investigating even before he writes anything down

The other purpose or theme we see running through the book of Luke is informed by his identity as a Gentile

Luke frequently highlights stories of Jesus interacting with outsiders

Or at least calls their status as outsiders to attention more than in some of the other gospels

Jesus is shown as compassionate, a friend to outcasts

A subtitle that I saw suggested for the book of Luke was “Good News for All”

Which is taken from the Christmas story “good news for all people”

As we read through Luke each day watch especially for this theme and see if you can answer these questions in that day’s readings:

1-what is Good News

2-who is it for?

Audience-who is Theophilus?

Unlike a lot of other books, Luke and Acts are addressed to a single person

If it’s a specific, real person

Someone powerful, wealthy, or influential enough to have something like this written for them

By the name, also a Gentile instead of a Jewish man

Another theory is that this is a generic name for anyone who would be interested in reading about Jesus

Name means “love of God”

Amadeo (just a Spanish version of Greek Theophilus)

Whether we’re listening in on a conversation meant for an early first century believer or we’re exactly the type of people this was written for

There’s good news in this book for all of us

So I invite you again, to grab a reading plan

Follow along with us every day in the short reading

Jot down a couple thoughts, it helps our reading to be more engaged and purposeful

Share your questions and thoughts so we can grow together

Song: #408- How Firm a Foundation (vs. 1,2,4)

(accompanied by the PRC bells)

How firm a foundation,

Ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith
In His excellent Word!

What more can He say
Than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge
To Jesus have fled?

"Fear not!" I am with thee;
O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God
And will still give thee aid.

I'll strengthen thee, help thee,
And cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous,
Omnipotent hand.

"The soul that on Jesus
Hath leaned for repose;
I will not, I will not
Desert to his foes.

That soul, though all hell
Should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never,
No never forsake!"

Benediction

Postlude