

INVOCATION:

Gracious Lord, we are thankful to be in Your house this morning. We welcome Your Holy Spirit into our midst in this place. We thank You for the health that You have given us that we may be here. We thank You for the relative safety that we have in gathering here. We thank You for the Word that we will hear, and the songs which we will sing, and the prayers which we will pray, which all bring glory and honor to Your name. We thank You for Your Son Jesus, through whom we were created. And we thank You for the salvation that is ours as we come to know the Son. In His name we pray, Amen.

WELCOME:

Welcome to Sappony. We're glad that you're here. As a reminder, we will not be passing offering plates. If you have brought your gift to the Lord, you may place it in the plate on your way out the door. We do ask that you maintain appropriate distancing as we continue the worship service this morning. Guidelines for events where singing will take place suggest ten feet of distance between participants.

HYMN # 202 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

HYMN # 206 Blessed Be the Name

HYMN # 210 My Jesus, I Love Thee

PASTORAL PRAYER:

**(IMB) Hyderabad, India:** Muslims make up about 40 percent of the city's population. Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) was celebrated on August 1 in Hyderabad in a different way this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. This festival commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, whom Muslims believe to be Ishmael. Because of Abraham's faithfulness, God provided a

ram as a substitute for the sacrifice. Normally, animals are slaughtered during this festival, but this year, limits were placed on where and how these sacrifices were to happen last month. In addition, Muslim leaders encouraged people to offer their prayers at home to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Please pray that Muslims will have the opportunity to hear that God sacrificed His only Son so that they might have life and forgiveness of sin, and that this forgiveness of sin is not based on works, but is given by faith through grace. This is the gift of God!

**NAMB Missionaries:** Will & Eryn Cole, Church Planters, Bridge City Church (Mars, PA) Pittsburgh Metro. 2,441,127 People/78.7% lost/1 SBC church for every 46,945 residents.

Martha for the Homeless

Upcoming Elections

Katie: Being trained for SE Asia.

#### INTRODUCTION:

Remember that I had mentioned before that Hebrews was addressed to people who appeared to have grown weary waiting for the return of Christ. We too, may be tempted to be tired of waiting on God. But we are encouraged to continue in our faith and to not harden our hearts.

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 3:7-4:13

#### SCRIPTURE MESSAGE:

##### 1. THE DANGER OF DISBELIEF

- a. (3:7) Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says
  - i. Before “therefore”: (3:6) But Christ was faithful as a Son over His household. And we are that household if we hold on to the courage and the confidence of our hope.
  - ii. Holding on to our hope is essential.
- b. (3:7-10) Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of

testing in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works for 40 years.

- i. The people who rebelled were the same ones who saw God's mighty deliverance of them from Egypt, but they lost their confidence in Him.
  - ii. That's why He continues with "they have not known My ways." And "They will not enter My rest."
- c. (3:12) Watch out, brothers, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that departs from the living God.
- i. Note that having an unbelieving heart is evil!
  - ii. This is referring to people who have known God and departed from Him.
  - iii. What does this do to "once saved always saved?"
- d. We help to guard each other from disbelief.
- i. (3:13) But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.
  - ii. Sin is a sign of disbelief! If you know God, and you know what He requires, and are disobedient to what He requires, do you really believe?

## 2. THE DISQUALIFICATION OF DISOBEDIENCE

- a. (3:14-16) For we have become companions of the Messiah if we hold firmly until the end the reality that we had at the start. As it is said: Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who heard and rebelled? Wasn't it really all who came out of Egypt under Moses?
  - i. They knew and disobeyed!

- ii. (3:17) Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness.
- b. (3:19) So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.
  - i. Again, their disbelief caused their disobedience.
  - ii. Are you allowing disobedience to cause disbelief?

### 3. THE PROMISED REST

- a. (4:1) Therefore, while the promise to enter His rest remains, let us fear that none of you should miss it.
  - i. This promise remains.
  - ii. This promise is available to those who hold firmly until the end.
- b. (4:2) For we also have received the good news just as they did; but the message they heard did not benefit them, since they were not united with those who heard it in faith (for we who have believed enter the rest), in keeping with what He has said: So I swore in my anger, they will not enter My rest.
  - i. If you are here today, you cannot claim to have not heard the good news of Christ's rest!
  - ii. If you hear and are not united with those who hear it in faith, you will be like those evil unbelievers.
- c. (4:6-7) Since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news did not enter because of disobedience, again, He specifies a certain day—today—speaking through David after such a long time, as previously stated: Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

- d. (4:8-9) For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. Therefore, a Sabbath rest remains for God's people.
  - i. God's people are those of us who trust and obey!
  - ii. The promised land was a picture of the future rest!
  - iii. Ironically, one of the reasons that they would lose their land was not taking Sabbath rests.
- e. We can enter His rest, but we are warned!

#### 4. THE WARNING OF JUDGMENT

- a. (4:11-13) Let us then enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience. For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.
  - i. We will all stand naked in front of God one day with nothing but our works.
  - ii. He knows our motives, our thoughts, our deeds. Even those things that we think are secret.
  - iii. We will have to answer to Him.
- b. Have you decided to enter His rest?

#### GOSPEL PRESENTATION (James Merritt)

- 1. The bad news: We are all sinners separated from God.
  - a. Everyone sins.
  - b. God is holy and sin is a barrier between us and Him.

2. The worst news: There is nothing we can do to take care of our sin problem.
  - a. Religion?
  - b. Trying harder?
  - c. Generosity?
3. The good news: Jesus did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
  - a. He lived a sinless life
  - b. He died for our sins.
  - c. His payment was proven at His resurrection.
4. The best news: God's forgiveness and eternal life is a free gift, and all we have to do is receive it.
  - a. Realize you are a sinner.
  - b. Repent of your sin.
  - c. Receive Christ as Lord and Savior.
5. Three questions
  - a. Do you understand what you have heard, and does it make sense to you?
  - b. Is there any reason you can give God that God would accept why you could not receive Christ into your life?
  - c. Are you willing to pray to Christ for your salvation?

I'm going to ask that everyone close your eyes and bow your head. If you have not yet prayed to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, I will give you a chance to do that now. If you are willing, repeat after me:

**Lord Jesus, I confess today that You are Lord. I turn my life over to You to do Your will. I believe in my heart that You were born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for my sins, was buried for three days, and was raised from the dead on the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and ask Your forgiveness for my sins. I commit my life to You from this day forward. Amen!**

We will now sing a hymn of invitation, #307 "Just As I Am". If you prayed to accept Christ as Lord, you may come forward during

this hymn, or if you're more comfortable, you can see me after the conclusion of the service.