

INVOCATION:

Gracious and merciful Lord, we thank You once again for allowing us to gather in worship today. Remove those things that inhibit our worship of You today. Take away our sins, our doubts, our fears, and anything else that would stop us from the experience of Your presence. Receive our worship as we worship only You, Lord, in Spirit and in truth. In the name of Jesus, 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 # 392 Stir Your Church, O God, Our Father (PLAYTHROUGH)

HYMN # 400 Rise Up, O Men of God

HYMN # 406 The Solid Rock

PASTORAL PRAYER:

**(IMB) Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam:** "School is out! Summer vacation is here!" Summer holiday is usually the time when people travel, but with COVID-19, most families stayed at home this summer or didn't travel far. Since children were home without much to do, an idea was born to have a Vacation Bible School for a small group of children. Word of mouth spreads quickly, and the news of this Vacation Bible School spread. The small group grew into a much larger group and became an amazing opportunity to share with children who didn't have any connection to believers or a church. Some traveled 45 minutes

one way to be able to attend each day. The good news was clearly shared multiple times throughout the week, and for many of the children, it was their first time to hear. The parents were also hearing the good news for the first time when their children came home, telling about all they had learned. Praise God for each child and parent who heard the good news! Pray that the small seeds of faith that were planted will sprout and grow into passionate and strong followers of Christ.

**NAMB Missionaries:** Dan & Natika Nichols (Church Planters, Redeemer Church) Roseville MN. Twin Cities pop. 3.4 million, 76% lost. 1 SBC church per 50,764 residents.

Katie: Finishing up training. Trying to get visa processed and praying that borders are opened.

Martha for the Homeless

Upcoming Elections

**INTRODUCTION:** As we've been going through the book of Hebrews, a couple of weeks ago, we mentioned how Jesus is the Great High Priest, and we discussed what that means for us. Last week, we saw that the author interjected a point that it is hard to explain this superior priesthood to them because of their laziness. And we talked about what spiritual laziness can do to us. Today, we pick back up with the discussion of the superior priesthood of Christ.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 7:1-28

**SCRIPTURE MESSAGE:**

1. ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK (7:1-10)
  - a. He blessed Abraham (7:1)
  - b. Abraham tithed to him (7:2)
  - c. Name means King of Righteousness and Salem means peace (7:2)
  - d. No genealogy, and no beginning or end of his life is recorded (7:3) but resembling the Son of God

- e. (7:4-10) The great-grandfather of Levi the father of the priestly tribe, the ones who receive tithes, gave *his* tithe to Melchizedek.

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRIST'S PRIESTHOOD

- a. Divine (7:11-14)
  - i. Perfection doesn't come through the Levitical Priesthood (7:11)
  - ii. Jesus didn't belong to the tribe of the priests (7:13-14)
  - iii. Therefore, He wasn't born into it, God assigned Him to it, like Melchizedek.
- b. Effectual (7:15-19)
  - i. (7:16) Melchizedek became a priest not because of descent, but because of an indestructible life (KJV endless)
  - ii. Christ's priesthood accomplishes something that the law could not.
- c. Eternal (7:20-22)
  - i. Levitical priests were just born into it. There was no oath.
  - ii. (7:21) The Lord has sworn, and He will not change His mind, You are a priest forever.
- d. Perpetual (7:23-25)
  - i. Generation after generation of Levites became priests because they could not continue. Their term expired at death.
  - ii. Since Christ never dies, (25) He always lives to intercede for us!
- e. Perfect (7:26-28)
  - i. (26) Holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens.
  - ii. He had no sin to offer sacrifices for
  - iii. His sacrifice is infinitely superior to any other sacrifice that was offered. His sacrifice is eternal.

3. What does Christ's divine, effectual, eternal, perpetual, perfect priesthood require of us?
  - a. It requires that we accept His sacrifice for us.
  - b. It requires that we give.
  - c. It requires that we stop looking for salvation in things that cannot provide it.

#### 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, #287 "Take My Life, Lead Me, Lord". 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.