

INVOCATION:

Lord, once again, we enter Your sanctuary to draw closer to You. If we have brought with us any barrier to our worship, make it known to us now. If we bring any sin, bring it to mind now that we may confess it and be forgiven. If we bring any unforgiveness, remind us that we have been greatly forgiven. If we bring any worry, remind us of Your promises. Help us to set these things aside so that we may come to You with a spirit of true worship. We thank You for allowing us to come here this morning. In the name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. 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 # 407 Because He Lives

HYMN # 410 It Is Well with My Soul

HYMN # 411 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

PASTORAL PRAYER:

**(IMB) Maputo, Mozambique: Capital City and Province** - "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:20-25 NIV). "Many countries are beginning to reopen businesses that were closed due to COVID-19, and churches are facing decisions about what to

do, as well. In Mozambique, it's no different--and yet it is. It's different in the sense that the rules put forth for churches to reopen have stretched to the point of being unimaginable for many churches in the country. Letters of approval must be written, and then the churches must be ready for inspection. Many congregations are just not able to meet all the requirements, which include cement floors in the sanctuary, cement floors in outdoor restrooms, disinfectant to clean before and after the services, digital thermometers, and so forth. Another requirement is that two doors to the sanctuary must be kept open during the worship service, but one recent church plant has only one door. Pray that during the next several months, church members will be open to meeting creatively, and ask that they'll remain strong in their dedication to the Lord and to their church family. Pray that authorities will make wise decisions in regard to religious freedom within the country. Pray that our Southern Mozambique Team members will be able to strengthen existing relationships and partnerships as we transition yet again."

**NAMB Missionaries:** D. A. & Elicia Horton, Church Planters (Reach Fellowship, Long Beach CA)

Katie: Awaiting word to see if she has made it to the UK.

Martha for the Homeless

Upcoming Elections

President and Mrs. Trump (COVID)

Governor and Mrs. Northam (COVID)

#### INTRODUCTION:

So far as we have gone through the book of Hebrews, we have seen that Jesus is superior to the angels, yet fully human so that he can understand our weaknesses. We have learned that He preached a message and people hardened their hearts. We have seen that He is the eternal high priest. A priest, as we have said, represents God to the people and the people to God. He prays to God on behalf of the people, he offers sacrifices on behalf of the people, he approaches the throne of God for people.

Also, the priest tells the people about God. What He has said. What His law is. What they must do. The priest mediates, and is always the mediator of a covenant. The priests of the Old Testament mediated the Mosaic covenant; they presented its teachings. They presented its required sacrifices. Today, we see that Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant, and that is very good news indeed for us.

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 8:1-13

SCRIPTURE MESSAGE:

### 1. THE RESULT OF CHRIST'S PRIESTHOOD

- a. Remember that last week we noted that Christ's priesthood is Divine, Effectual, Eternal, Perpetual, and Perfect. Now we get to what that means for us.
- b. (8:1) Now the main point of what is being said is this: We have the kind of high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister of the sanctuary and the true tabernacle that was set up by the Lord and not man.
  - i. Remember that the original tabernacle was set up by man (at God's direction) as a shadow of the true tabernacle.
  - ii. Jesus ministers in a way that the Levitical priests could not.
  - iii. He was able to boldly go into the sanctuary without worry.
- c. (8:3) Human high priests were appointed to offer sacrifices. Jesus offered Himself.
- d. (8:5) tells us that that the gifts and the earthly tabernacle were a copy and a shadow of the heavenly things.
  - i. Moses was warned to make everything exactly the way instructed.

- ii. Based on what we read, the throne-room should look like how it's described starting with Exodus 35. Only more impressive because it was built by God, not man.
- e. (8:6) As the priests were mediators of the Mosaic covenant, Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, which is significantly better.

## 2. WHY HIS COVENANT IS BETTER

- a. What was wrong with the first covenant? People!
  - i. (8:9) They did not continue in My covenant.
  - ii. Their law showed how sinful we are.
  - iii. People turned away from God.
- b. (8:10) But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will put My laws into their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be My people.
  - i. The new covenant does not demand rote obedience to a set of rules out of fear of consequences.
  - ii. The new covenant puts the law into our minds and hearts so that we want to obey.
  - iii. That doesn't mean that we're never tempted! It means that we *want* to obey the Lord.
- c. (8:11) And each person will not teach his fellow citizen, and each his brother, saying "Know the Lord," because they will all know Me from the least to the greatest of them.
  - i. Isn't it great to know that my job goes away when we get to heaven?
  - ii. Every one of you has the authority to draw nearer to Christ!
  - iii. Each of you has the authority to seek forgiveness on your own.

- d. (8:12) For I will be merciful to the wrongdoing, and I will never again remember their sins.
  - i. Ocean Floor by Audio Adrenaline.
  - ii. As far as the east is from the west (not north and south).
- e. (8:13) By saying, a new covenant, He has declared that the first is old. And what is old and aging is about to disappear.
  - i. The Old Covenant demanded obedience out of fear.
  - ii. The New Covenant forgives our disobedience!

### 3. WHAT THIS DEMANDS OF US

- a. Having Christ at the Father's throne interceding for us is no small deal.
- b. In order to receive the benefit of His priesthood, we must accept His Lordship. We have to turn our lives over to Him.

### 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, #290, I am Thine, O 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.