A Nicodemus Sunday – Why Do “Good” People Suffer?
Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 13, 2021
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PREWORSHIP MUSIC
Bless the Lord, O My Soul (10,000 Reasons) ¹
Just As I Am ²
Hold on to Me ³

GREETING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION
All: Holy God, you give us many reasons to sing your praises. In this hour, our souls await the implanting of your Holy Word. Like mustard seeds that grow to enormous size, may our understanding of your plan for our lives, become overwhelmingly apparent. Reveal a sense of direction - not only our individual lives, but also for our church. With confidence in your purpose growing inside us, send us forth as your disciples to be a harbor of peace and love and hope in the world. Amen.

HYMN
A Mighty Fortress is Our God

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
All people: Holy and gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will center us again. Help us to see you as our center, and to cling to the good you create in the world. Help us to set aside all of our anger and bitterness, our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the worlds hurt. Help us to grow ever more into Christ’s likeness, that we will be his healing presence, bearing his love and truth to the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on Psalm 20)
Pastor: Let us rejoice in the Good News of God’s Provision and mercy, as recorded in Psalm 20. God answers when we are in trouble!
The God of Jacob protects!
All people: The Lord accepts all our offerings, and is pleased with all our sacrifices.
Pastor: May God give us what you desire, and make all our plans succeed.
All people: We will shout for joy over God’s victory, and celebrate God’s triumph by offering praise!
Pastor: God hears our cries for mercy and answers.
May we trust in the power of the LORD our God.
All people: We are human and thus, stumble and fall. But we will rise and stand firm. Victory belongs to the King, our God – who answers when we call. Thanks be to God!

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

EPISTLE READING
2 Corinthians 5:6-17

GOSPEL READING

¹ Matt Redman. CCLI Song Number: 6016351 Capitol CMG Publishing
² All hymns and music is in the Public Domain, unless referenced otherwise.
³ Laura Deagle. Song Number: 7130439 Capitol CMG Publishing, Essential Music Publishing LLC
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD’S PRAYER
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
All people: Take our lives and our gifts. Use them to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that through us, your kingdom might come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

HYMN
Be Thou My Vision

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION & BLESSING
Pastor: Beloved of God, go into the world:
your heart filled with hope,
your mind touched by a peace that passes all understanding,
your lips eager to share words of life,
your spirit enthusiastic to transform the world with acts of love.

All people: We will not fear, but trust in God’s unfailing goodness.
We will watch for the Lord’s Presence with eager expectation.
We will be generous as God has been generous to us.

Pastor: May God respond to your every cry with mercy;
May Jesus Christ take you by the hand and lift you to new life;
and may the Holy Spirit build you up in faith, in speech,
in wisdom, in passion and in love.

All people: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE
Bless the Lord, O My Soul - 10,000 Reasons (Instrumental)
400 Be Thou My Vision

Jesus Christ is all. Col. 3:11

IRISH HYMN
Tr. MARY BYRNE; Ed. ELEANOR HULL

TRADITIONAL IRISH MELODY
ARR. JACK SCHRAEDER

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
3. Riches I need not, nor man’s empty praise,
4. High King of heaven, my victory won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun!

Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Thou and Thou only be first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

YouTube Link for this hymn: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clqdCXqxYvl
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A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric)  8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

Martin Luther, 1529
Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852

1. A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
2. Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;
3. And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,
4. That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth;

Our helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing,
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth;

For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He, Lord Sab-
The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for him; His rage we
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body

power are great, And, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.
loth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.
can endure, For lo! his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.
ye may kill, God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

YouTube Link for this hymn: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-FHMLXzElg