

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

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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 world's 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

Luke 13:1-5

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 ⁴

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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 SCHRADER

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;
3. Rich - es I need not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Thou my great Fa - ther, and I thy true son,
Thou and Thou on - ly be first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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YouTube Link for this hymn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clqdCXxqYvI>

Martin Luther, 1529

Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852

Martin Luther, 1529

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;

Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth;

For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a -
 The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y

power are great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
 can en - dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 they may kill, God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.