

Sermon Notes

“Name It and Claim It”

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Jeremiah 29:4-14 (NIV)

The prophet Jeremiah in today’s scripture passage is speaking to the people of Israel and is reminding them that God has not forsaken them in their time of Babylonian exile. Even more, God is at work in ways that they cannot see or understand. Yet, he is calling them to rest in the providential care of God, and to find comfort and courage in knowing that God is there.

This passage is about God’s “invisible hand” at work and is captured beautifully in this central promise – **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Three key concepts:

1) God has _____.

Understanding the difference between:

- **Universal Providence:** _____

- **Particular Providence:** _____

2) God desires that we _____.

The word *prosper* as it is used in this text, means wholeness or completeness. This is a wholeness that is ours in the love and care of God that is ours to claim as a child of God.

3) God has _____ for our future.

“When faced with a mountain, I WILL NOT QUIT! I will keep on striving until I climb over, find a pass through, tunnel underneath, or simply stay and turn the mountain into a gold mine with God's help!” ~ Dr. Robert Schuller



Asbury United Methodist Church

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Asbury United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds.
Open Doors.



The Invisible Hand

Understanding the Providence of God

Fourth Sunday in Eastertide – Order of Worship

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy, Holy, Holy

HYMN OF PRAISE

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

PASTORAL GREETING

DOXOLOGY

RESPONSIVE PASTORAL PRAYER

Prayer of St. Francis & 11-Step Prayer from AA

“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace!

That where there is hatred,

I may bring love.

That where there is wrong,

I may bring forgiveness.

That where there is discord,

I may bring harmony.

That where there is error,

I may bring truth.

That where there is doubt,

I may bring faith.

That where there is despair,

I may bring hope.

That where there are shadows,

I may bring light.

That where there is sadness,

I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort, than to be comforted.

To understand, rather than to be understood.

To love, rather than to be loved.

For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.

It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.

It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life.

Amen.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Liz Drugan, Greta Sandy-Feagin

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Maggie Dunaway

Congregational Care Director

Jeremiah 29:4-14 (NIV)

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

Order of Worship - Continued

Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters.

Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you.

Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

ANTHEM

Never a Step Will You Walk Alone

SERMON

“Name It and Claim It”

Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson

Senior Pastor

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

SENDING FORTH

BLESSING RESPONSE

Go Forth for God

*Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
Be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
In God's good Spirit daily to increase,
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.*

POSTLUDE

LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson, Senior Pastor,
Ordained Elder

Rev. Dr. Bill Morgan, Associate Pastor,
Ordained Elder

Maggie Dunaway, Congregational Care Director

Nancy Beard, Director of Music

Ellen Stanton, Martha LaCroix, Pianists

PRODUCTION CREW

Matthew Butts, Technical Director

Michael Morris, Digital Engagement Manager

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021

In-person & Online Attendance

1097

Giving

Budgeted Giving: \$78,725.00

Contributions Received: \$84,295.11

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

James Tyler Norton

Son of Jessica & Josh Norton

Brother of Jackson

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY

Celebrate the Life of

Beth Damato