

BERN REFORMED UCC - OCTOBER 27 ,2024

The Mercy & Compassion Of God

PRELUDE: "O God, The Rock Of Ages"

TODAY'S FLOWERS are sponsored "In Honor of Jeremy and Holly's 20th Wedding Anniversary" & "Amy and Tim's 25th Wedding Anniversary" & "Don and Loretta's 54th Wedding Anniversary".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31:7-9 *The remnant of Israel is gathered*

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 34

LEADER: This poor soul cried and was heard by the LORD and was saved from every trouble.

PEOPLE: Taste, see that the LORD is good. Happy are they who take refuge in Him.

LEADER: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all.

PEOPLE: The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

HYMN #63 "OUR GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"

- 1. Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.**
- 2. Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.**
- 3. Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.**
- 4. A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.**
- 5. Time, like an ever rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.**
- 6. Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home.**

GOSPEL: Mark 10:46-52 *"Christ heals blind Bartimaeus"*

Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 7:23-28 "*Christ, the merciful high priest*"

The former priests were many in number because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus the Christ holds his priesthood permanently because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests humans, who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

SERMON: "MERCIFUL!"

CHOIR ANTHEM: "On Christ I Stand"

- Harlan

SHARING OF PRAYERS

PRAYER FOR COMPASSION: Heavenly Father, grant each and every one of us a heart overflowing with compassion. May Your divine Love guide our words and actions, enabling us to see beyond differences and to extend kindness to all. Clothe us in humility, gentleness, and patience as we remember Your call to become a vessel of Your boundless compassion in our moments of judgment. May Your Grace remind us of the empathy You lavish upon us. Teach us to live the transformative power that compassion offers as it reflects Your mercy and understanding. May our interactions with others become and reflect a testimony to Your love, breaking down barriers and fostering connections in today's world that is hungry for Your compassion.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #85 "THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY"

- 1. There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than
up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly
judgment given.**

- 2. For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple we should take Him
at his word;
And our lives would be all sunshine in the sweetness of the Lord.**

POSTLUDE: "Fantasie on" Aurelia"

- *Smith*

Attendance Last week 62