

Chili, First Presbyterian Church

July 19, 2020—7th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

The Reverend Jeff Falter, teaching elder in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Gathering -- Deuteronomy 6.4-9

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. 6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. 7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, 9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Come, let us worship the Lord, whose steadfast love has delivered us. [Psalm 86.13]

Reign Above It All

Verse 1

The reign of darkness now has ended
In the kingdom of light
In the kingdom of light
Forever under Your dominion
You’re the King of my life
You’re the King of my life

Chorus 1

You reign above it all
You reign above it all
Over the universe
And over every heart
There is no higher name
Jesus You reign above it all

Verse 2

On the cross the work was finished
God You poured out Your life
Just to give us new life
Now from the lips of the forgiven
Hear an anthem arise
'Cause Jesus You’re alive

Chorus 2

Let all of heaven
And the earth erupt in song
Sing hallelujah to the Everlasting One
There is no higher name
Jesus You reign above it all

Bridge

You sent the darkness running
Out of an empty grave
Now seated alone in glory
Enthroned on the highest praise

CCLI Song # 7134098

Ethan Hulse | Hannah McClure | Jess Cates | Paul McClure

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Call to Confession -- Psalm 86.15, 6, 5

Psalm 86 assures us that the Lord is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.” Therefore the psalmist cries out, “Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.” Trusting that God is indeed good and forgiving, let us turn to the Lord and confess our sins.

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Prayer of Confession

O Lord our God, you call us to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity, but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires. You call us to seek justice and peace, but we are satisfied with injustices and discord. You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed, but we do not insist on freedom for all.

O Lord, forgive us. Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit, so that all may know your justice and peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

From the beginning, God has claimed you as God’s very own daughter or son, someone God loves deeply and dearly. This same God who created you has also redeemed you from your sin and continues to sustain you throughout all your life. This God has promised that nothing you do in life or in death will ever separate you from God’s love. Friends, this is the good news: In Jesus Christ we have been forgiven.

Hymn - “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness
O God my Father
There is no shadow
Of turning with Thee
Thou changest not
Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been
Thou forever wilt be

Summer and winter
And springtime and harvest
Sun moon and stars
In their courses above
Join with all nature
In manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness
Mercy and love

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
New mercies I see
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord unto me

Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence
To cheer and to guide
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine
With ten thousand beside

CCLI Song # 18723

Thomas Obediah Chisholm | William Marion Runyan

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Prayer for Illumination -- Isaiah 55.10-11

Through Isaiah the Lord says, “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” By your Spirit, O Lord, open our minds to your word this day, that we might walk according to your ways; for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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Scripture Reading -- Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ 28 He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29 But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you

would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are

collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Sermon -- “Let God Sort Out the Mess”

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Hymn: “My Savior, My God”

Verse 1

I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed what God has
planned
I only know at His right hand
Stands One who is my Savior

Verse 2

I take Him at His word and deed
Christ died to save me this I read
And in my heart I find a need
Of Him to be my Savior

Pre-Chorus

That He would leave His place on high
And come for sinful man to die
You count it strange so once did I
Before I knew my Savior

CCLI Song # 4592255

Aaron Shust | Dorothy Greenwell

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Prayers of the People

Doxology

Charge & Benediction

Because the world is poor and starving, go with bread.
Because the world is filled with fear, go with courage.
Because the world is in despair, go with hope.
Because the world is living lies, go with truth.
Because the world is sick with sorrow, go with joy.
Because the world is weary of wars, go with peace.
Because the world is seldom fair, go with justice.
Because the world is under judgment, go with mercy.
Because the world will die without it, go with love.
May the gracious God of our Lord Jesus Christ go with us all to guide us with
the light of the Gospel and to gather us into community, both now and forever.
Amen.

-- Professor Hal Warheirn wrote this as a gift upon the occasion of his retirement and for use at the baccalaureate service of the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary class of 1995.

Biographical Information

The Rev. Jeff Falter is currently a member-at-large of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, having previously served as pastor of churches in North Carolina, Alabama, West Virginia, and New York, as well as having served as a college chaplain. Though living in Penn Yan, Jeff enjoys visiting Presbyterian churches throughout the presbytery, while working full time as a computer programmer in Auburn.

Chorus

My Savior loves my Savior lives
My Savior's always there for me
My God He was my God He is
My God is always gonna be

(REPEAT)

Verse 3

Yes living dying let me bring
My strength my solace from this spring
That He who lives to be my King
Once died to be my Savior

Ending

My Savior lives my Savior loves
My Savior lives my Savior loves my Savior
lives