

SERMON REFLECTION

The Spirit and the Word recognize that we are a tangled web, individually and together. We are dark even to ourselves, hard to understand, slow to change. Every one of us has stubborn inconsistencies and blind spots. Jeremiah says that our hearts are deceitful and wonders who could possibly understand it (Jer. 17:9).

The only One who does thoroughly understand us is God. Sometimes He helps us to change rapidly. But He usually intervenes slowly - to transform how a person thinks, loves, fears, wants and trusts on a scale of years and decades, over a lifetime.

The reorientation of our hearts is a slow road. We will only be made wholly right when we see Jesus face-to-face....

People tend to evade personal responsibility by blame-shifting and self-justification. The courage to face hard things grows slowly in people who suffer greatly. From many angles, our Father states and re- states His love for us in Christ. People need to hear that because it is by promises that we change (2 Peter 1:4).

(David Powlison, January 9th, "Take Heart: Daily Devotions to Deepen Your Faith")

**Adapted from Calvary URC, Rev. Charles Tedrick*

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LORD'S DAY MORNING WORSHIP

September 20, 2026



GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Welcome, Announcements and Prelude

Silent Reflection & Salutation

Call to Worship

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

* Opening Hymn

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
#376 Trinity Hymnal (verses 1-4)

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!
- 2 Lord, my God, I come before thee, come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter thou, let it be thy temple now!
- 3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.
- 4 Thou my faith increase and quicken, let me keep thy gift divine,
howsoe'er temptations thicken; may thy Word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life, as my comfort in my strife. **

Invocation & Reading of God's Law

Genesis 17:9-13 (p 14 pew Bible)

Confession of Sin (unison)

The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made. (Ps 145:9)

In the face of your goodness, forgive us, Lord, for every unkind thought; every false word; every wrong act. We have lived not for You, but for ourselves. Forgive us for failing to give You thanks; for our neglect of prayer and our ignorance of Your word. Heavenly Father, have mercy on us. Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us; by the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Luke 2:21
(p 1019 pew Bible)

Baptism of Konrad Constantine Berry

Song of Response

Meekness and Majesty
6 *Covenant Praises* (all verses)

1 Meekness and majesty Manhood and deity
In perfect harmony The Man who is God
Lord of eternity Dwells in humanity
Kneels in humility And washes our feet

Chorus

O what a mystery Meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship, For this is your God This is your God

2 Father's pure radiance Perfect in innocence
Yet learns obedience To death on a cross
Suffering to give us life Conquering through sacrifice
And as they crucify Prays 'Father forgive' (**Chorus**)

3 Wisdom unsearchable God the invisible
Love indestructible In frailty appears
Lord of infinity Stooping so tenderly Lifts our humanity
To the heights of His throne (**Chorus**)

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We Petition God

Congregational Prayer

Offering & Hymn

All The Way My Savior Leads Me
605 *Trinity Hymnal* (verses 1-2)

1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me: his faithful foll'wer I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2 Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]

We Confess Our Faith *West Short Cat Q & A 21-22* (p 870 *Trinity Hymnal*)

* *Gloria Patri*

#735 *Trinity Hymnal*

GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD TO HIS PEOPLE

*** Prayer For Illumination**

Scripture

Genesis 17:1-8
(p 14 pew Bible)

Baptism Sermon God Comes Down With Blood to Keep His Promises

Prayer of Application

*** Closing Hymn**

In Christ Alone
#4 *Covenant Praises*

1 In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand

2 In Christ alone who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live

3 There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4 No guilt in life no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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*** Benediction**

Doxology

#731 *Trinity Hymnal*

* Please stand if able

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