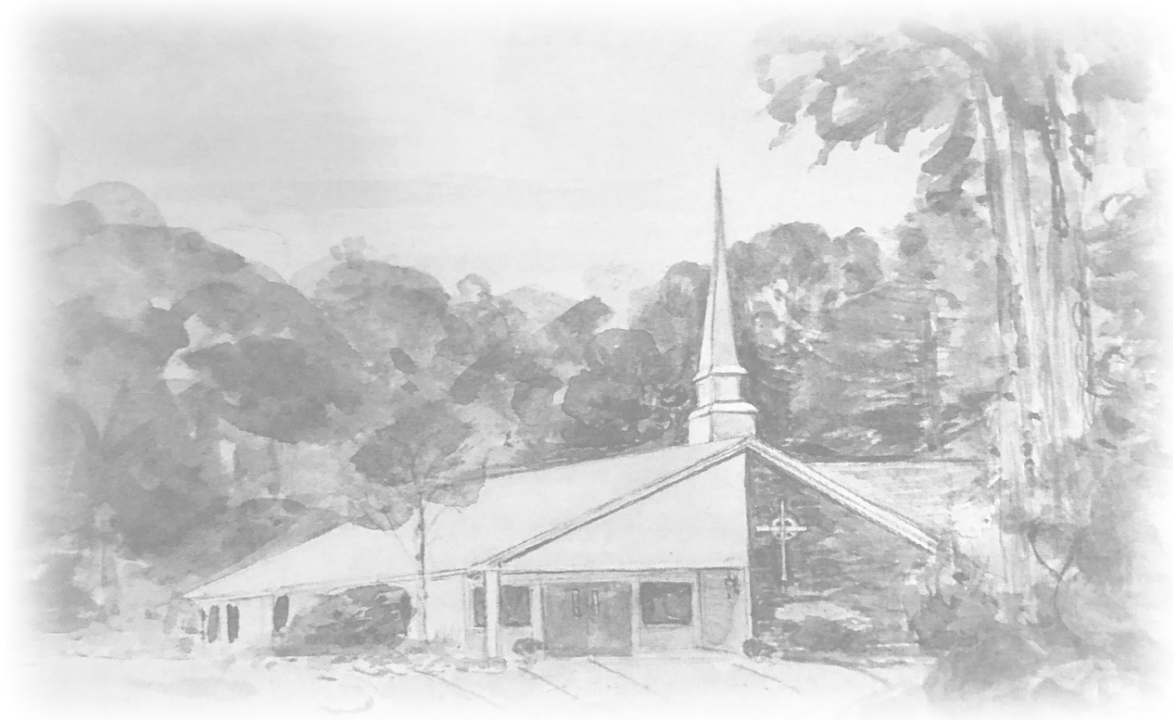


# *Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod*



**“I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Psalm 122:1**

*The Lord's Day*

June 7, 2020

Rev. Dr. James A. La Belle, Pastor

Morning Worship 10:00 am – Afternoon Study 4:30 pm

*We welcome you to the Lord's house, to the worship of the living and true God, and into the fellowship of this congregation.*

**LIVE STREAMING @**

<http://presbyterianchurchofcapecod.com/live-stream/>

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**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM AS OUR GOD**  
*2Chr 16:28-31*

**A HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Hymn 429 - Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**A PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD**

**Westminster Short Catechism 33**

**Heidelberg Catechism 60-61**

**Q. What is justification?**

**A.** Justification is an act of God's free grace wherein he pardoneth all our sins and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone.

**Q. How are you righteous before God?**

**A.** Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments, of never having kept any of them and of still being inclined toward all evil. Nevertheless without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness and holiness of Christ as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me if only I accept this gift with a believing heart.

**Q. Why do you say that through faith alone you are righteous?**

**A.** Not because I please God by the worthiness of my faith for only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness and holiness are my righteousness before God and I can receive this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than by faith alone.

**A PSALM OF RESPONSE**

*Psalm 32A (Stanzas 1 & 5)*

**OUR RESPONSIVE READING OF GOD'S LAW**

*The Ten Commandments (see insert)*

## **THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD**

Almighty Lord, we find great delight in your creation and the good things you have given us to enjoy but we rarely spend time delighting in you. We tend to enjoy you when you give us what we want but we become anxious, fretful and angry when life is hard and you seem unwilling to rescue us from uncomfortable or painful circumstances. We spend many days haunted by guilty fears over the sins that we have committed, forgetting the wounds that will forever scar the hands of your Son and that plead forgiveness for us every moment of every day. We fail to bear grief and shame patiently because we forget that you alone are our stronghold in times of trouble and you are working all things together for our good. Father, forgive us. Father cause us to find overwhelming delight in the salvation you have given us through Christ. Stir our weak souls to arise and shake off the fearful guilt we cling to with stubborn pride. Open our eyes more and more to see our great High Priest, crushed for us and now pleading for us before your throne. May we treasure his love and believe with all our hearts that nothing can separate us from it not even the sin with which we continue to struggle. Give us such great confidence in the gospel that we run joyfully to you in the midst of our weakness to hear your pardoning voice and feel the ardent and passionate embrace of our true Father. Amen.

### **A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING PERSONAL SINS**

#### **GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED**

Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is through his flesh and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:19–23

#### **A HYMN OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE**

*Hymn 433 (Stanza 1) – Amazing Grace!*

#### **SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY'S SERMON**

Galatians 3:10-14, 21-29

Pew Bible Pg. 1237

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION**

Followed by the Lord's Prayer ("Debts")

#### **OUR OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY TO GOD**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Old Hundreth L.M. (587)*

#### **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

Job 9:1-3

Pew Bible Pg. 535

The Impossibility of a Self-Righteousness

Pastor James A. La Belle

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## **OUTLINE**

*Job 9.1-3--The Impossibility of a Self-Righteousness*

*No man can justify himself before God...*

**Because no man can render what the Law requires**

- I. Man is blithely ignorant of what the law of God actually requires
  - A. It requires perfect and perpetual obedience, Gal 5.3-4. And while some men think they've rendered that (Mk 10.17-20), Christ shows in Mt 5-7 that no man ever has or can.
  - B. And all it takes is one single failure and the Law denounces

its irrevocable curse upon us, Gal 3.10-11

- II. How foolish, then, for a man to think he can be justified by his own works! It's an impossible situation because the law demands an obedience no man can accomplish, Gal 2.16; Rom 3.20

**Because every man's already condemned by the Law**

- I. When God created Adam, He dealt with him both covenantally and publicly
  - A. Covenantally, God made a covenant of works with Adam, promising life upon a single act of obedience and threatening death upon a single act of disobedience, Gen 2.15-17
    - 1. When Adam disobeyed death immediately ensued: spiritual death in Gen 3.7-8 and temporal death in Gen 5.5 (Adam was spared eternal death by God's redeeming grace).
  - B. God also dealt with Adam publicly, creating him as the public representative of the entire human race, such that his choice in the covenant of works would have direct, irrevocable, and eternal consequences for all his posterity, cf. Ps 58.3; Rom 5.10; Gal 2.16; Gen 5 ("...and he died.").
- II. The inescapable conclusion: all of Adam's posterity are born in the covenant of works and under its just condemnation.
  - A. All men come into this world as condemned breakers of the covenant of works, Rom 3.10-18; Eph 2.1-3
  - B. And the only way that's possible is if we all stood before God in and with Adam in Gen 3, which is exactly what the Bible teaches, Rom 5.12 (death comes to all because all sinned in Adam).
  - C. It's *impossible*, then, for any man to be *justified* before God by his own obedience to the Law of God because his person is already under the cursed *condemnation* of that Law, Prov 15.8, 9, 26
- III. Do you see what a hopeless, helpless, and miserable condition every child of Adam is in!? Short of a divine and gracious intervention, he'll live justly under the rigor and demands of the covenant of works and die justly under its curse and condemnation, Gen 2.17
  - A. The law can't justify because man can't obey.

**Because justification before God is only by faith**

- I. Look how Paul's clear statements of the *impossibility* of a self-righteousness before God pave the way for him to boldly and happily declare the good news that justification is instead by faith in Christ! Gal 2.16; 3.11; Rom 3.20-26; Phil 3.9; Rom 9.30-10.4; Gal 3.22-24
- II. The reality confronting the human race is this: a man's works can neither save him nor justify him before God, because justification is by faith instead of works. But God... (Jn 3.16; Eph 2.4-10).

**Reflections for Application**

- I. If you're trying to save yourself you're on a fool's errand that'll only prove your condemnation, cf. Job 1.8 (with 9.2-3); Phil 3.7-9; Mk 10.17-22, 26-27; Isa 64.6; Gen 6.5
- II. Can see why it's so necessary for every child of Adam to fly into the arms of Jesus Christ? It's only in Jesus that God's made a new covenant—a covenant of grace and mercy *for sinners*, Rom 3.26; Eph 2.5-10; Rom 8.31-39
  - A. *This* is the answer to Job's question. How can a man be in the right before God? Only through faith in Jesus as Saviour, Rom 3.23-25
  - B. Christ is the covenantal and public Adam of all who believe on Him for salvation and are content, by faith, to rest on Him for righteousness, Rom 10.4.
  - C. This, then, is every man's pressing need: to fly to Jesus for rescue.
- III. If justification were dependent on your works, you could never be saved. But God stands ready to justify all men freely, by His grace, through the redemption that is in His Son, Rom 3.23; Isa 55.6-7
  - A. Will you go to Him *today*. There's no other way, Jn 6.67-69; 14.6
  - B. And if you know Him already, then praise Him afresh for the free gift of His acceptable and impeccable righteousness, Rom 5.1

## **RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S WORD**

*Hymn 435 – Now What My Hands Have Done*

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*(The inner circles of cups contain wine and the outer circle contains grape juice. Please hold each element until all have been served so that we may partake together.)*

## **DEACON'S OFFERING**

## **RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S GRACE & MERCY**

*Hymn 380 – Crown Him with Many Crowns*

## **OUR LORD'S BENEDECTION**

## **HIS CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE**

Now blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel, for he alone does wondrous works in glory that excel. And blessed be his glorious name to all eternity. The whole earth let his glory fill. Amen, so let it be. - McKee CM

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We extend a **cordial welcome** to the visitors in our service today.

Sunday Evening Sermon: **Christ is Life** - Phil 1:21-26  
Derrick Leitão

**Prayer Meeting** – Wednesday, June 3rd, 6:30pm

### **Birthdays this week:**

June 11th Nathan Davis

### **Anniversaries:**

June 7th Derrick & Nicole Leitão

June 8th Timothy & Joanna Barr

June 13th Ben & Christina VanDine

**The missionaries** for this month – Christopher and Chloe Verdicks, Karamoja, Uganda

**Bulletin announcements** should be submitted to Elly Mead by 12 noon on Wednesdays. Please e-mail to [pcccsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pcccsecretary@gmail.com).