

September 20th Bulletin

Prelude

Announcements (will be on Facebook Live screen)

Call to Worship:

Pastor: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

People: The world, and those who live in it;

Pastor: For he has founded it on the seas,

People: And established it on the rivers.

Opening Hymn #21 - "How Great Thou Art"

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.

He descended into hell. 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 Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-16

Sermon: Men and Women of the Bible: Cain

Time of Prayer (*Note: we will NOT be asking for spoken joys and concerns during the service.*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:

for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn #777 – "The Lord Is Here!"

Offering Reminder – *online giving is available at www.cedarvilleunited.org*

Benediction and Postlude

INTRODUCTION

- Men and Women of the Bible Series
 - Last week – Eve
 - Tree of Knowledge: self-centered, self-sufficient, entitled
 - Tree of Life: transformation, looking to God for everything
- This week: Cain, looking at bitterness

BITTERNESS

- Be In Health: Dr. Henry Wright separated bitterness into seven parts, each one a little more “charged” than the last.
- **Unforgiveness** – when something has been done to us and we don’t forgive. Forgiveness means that we are releasing the person and the hurt to God.
- **Resentment** – we listen to those tapes playing in our heads, reminding us of what happened to us. We are irritated with the person who did it.
- **Retaliation** – this is the “getting even” stage, though it is subtle at this point. We often withhold something. A lot of it is passive-aggressive.
- **Anger/Wrath** – when something bad happens, we may have a justifiably angry response. Do we work through it or do we embrace it and become angry people?
- **Hatred** – we begin to actively eliminate the person from our life. We can’t breathe the same air. We refuse to even be in the same room with them.
- **Violence** – when things turn to violence, they turn outward. Physical and verbal.
- **Murder** – the last step is murder, and it doesn’t have to be physical murder. We think, “you must be eliminated.”

CAIN AND ABEL

- Abel brought an acceptable sacrifice to God, a blood sacrifice from the firstlings of his flock. Cain brought some of his crops—it didn’t even say firstfruits.
- Cain became incredibly angry at God. How dare you hold me to these standards? How dare you tell me that what I did was wrong?
- God gave Cain a warning. Sin is lurking at your door. You are in danger of letting bitterness take root and grow. You must repent of pride and bitterness.
- But instead of repenting, Cain turned on his brother, the one who did do what God wanted him to. Abel did nothing except obey God. And it made Cain furious—he projected his anger at God onto his brother, and killed him.

FOR US TODAY

- Make a list of the people you need to forgive. You can write down why you need to forgive them if you want to, but the object is really to get that list.
- It has nothing to do with whether they are people you want to be back in relationship with—there are unsafe people out there. When you think of these people, your blood pressure still rises. You still get that high-octane ping. You still think about what they did to you.
- Ask God to help you forgive them. This is a process...but sin is lurking at our door. If we don’t forgive, we begin to work through those stages of bitterness. And then the bitterness shows on us, in our lives, on our faces, in our words.

Opening Hymn - *"How Great Thou Art"*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim,
"My God, how great thou art."
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

Closing Hymn - *"The Lord Is Here!"*

The Lord is here!
His promised word is evermore the same,
himself to be where two or three
are gathered in his name.

The Lord is here!
Where Christ is come his spirit too is there,
with all who raise the song of praise
or breathe the voice of prayer.

The Lord is here!
He comes in peace with blessings from above,
by pledge and sign of bread and wine
to fold us in his love.

The Lord is here!
To every soul this gift of grace be given,
to walk the way of Christ today,
and share the life of heaven.