



ALL GOD'S CHILDREN WORSHIP

July 3, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.

OPENING FELLOWSHIP – 9:30 – 9:45am

WELCOME – 9:45am (MJ)

Good morning and welcome to First Christian Church! We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Today we are worshipping outdoors, on the north side of our church building. If you at home can take your computer or tablet outside – you might want to sit outside where you are and join us in sitting in the Beauty of God's wonderful creation.

We have come to celebrate our Faith and our Family and the Fireworks of the 4th of July! Our order of worship is just a bit different today – as we began at 9:30am here in person with snacks and fellowship. And during our message time, we will have an opportunity to talk with each other – and we hope that you online will participate with us and type in your answers to some of the questions. And we will end with our time online with offering and communion. We hope you at home can prepare your communion elements now so that you can join us in partaking of communion...get a piece of bread and some juice or water ready.

We do want to have a record of your attendance – so for those who are here in person – pass that attendance pad around and make sure everyone signs it. For those at home, please check you like us or leave a comment so we can know who all is watching.

And now, come let us worship God! Let us sing our praises to God our Redeemer and Healer – and thank Him for freedom and the country we live in.

SINGING TOGETHER

“America the Beautiful”

O beautiful for spacious skies – For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties – Above the fruited plain
America, America – God shed His grace on thee
And crown Thy good with servanthood – From sea to shining sea

O beautiful for patriot dream – That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam – Undimmed by human tears
America, America – God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self-control – Thy liberty in law

PRAYING TOGETHER – Pastor Greg Fitch

LITANY

Pastor: God of healing, thank You for the faith and courage of Jairus.

All: Thank You God for healing.

Pastor: God of miracles, thank You for the faith and courage of the woman in the crowd.

All: Thank You, God, for healing.

Pastor: God of mercy we are ready to have more faith and courage.

All: Thank You, God, for healing.

PASTORAL PRAYER BY GREG

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

Our Father, which art in heaven – Hallowed be Thy Name

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done – Hallowed be Thy Name

Done on earth as it is in heaven – Hallowed be Thy Name

Give us this day our daily bread – Hallowed be Thy Name

And forgive all our debts – Hallowed be Thy Name

As we forgive our debtors – Hallowed be Thy Name

Lead us not into temptation – Hallowed be Thy Name

But deliver us from evil – Hallowed be Thy Name

Thine is the kingdom, power, and glory – Hallowed be Thy Name

Forever and ever – Hallowed be Thy Name

Amen, amen, amen – Hallowed be Thy Name

Amen, amen, amen, amen – Hallowed be Thy Name

STUDYING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Introduction – MJ

How many of you are going to see fireworks for 4th of July? Some of them are going on tonight – for example there are some out at Lake Bracken this evening. And then the Big Bang Boom here in Galesburg is at Lake Storey on the 4th. And then of course, you can watch it on TV – in Boston or Washington D.C. They are absolutely beautiful - but not quite the same as experiencing it outdoors where you can hear the noise and see the beauty, right up above you in the sky.

So – how do you know about the fireworks displays? You read it in the newspaper, right – or from the radio or TV – or on the internet through social media. Fireworks are coming! Come and see! And then, when you get there – you wait with anticipation – continuing looking to the sky to see that first burst of light! And then you watch, amazed!

It sure would be a disappointment if those fireworks were kept in a box and never shown. What if they were opened and laid out on the ground but never had the spark of fire and power to start it? We want to *see* the fireworks and then stand back and be *amazed* at the beauty and power!

The same is true with our faith! We want to show our faith in Jesus Christ and be filled with His power and strength... and when that happens – people around us will see the glory of God and be amazed and changed.

In our story for today - we discover that the news about Jesus has been spreading – about his teaching and miracles. They didn't have newspapers and social media and TV to get the word out. It was all told by word of mouth – and crowds of people had heard and come to see Jesus. Among the crowd were two people who showed great faith – and were changed forever by the power of Jesus in their lives.

Let's hear their story as Jan Luallen reads to us from Mark 5:21-43.

Mark 5:21-43 – Jan Luallen

²¹ Jesus got into the boat again and went back to the other side of the lake, where a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. ²² Then a leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, arrived. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet, ²³ pleading fervently with him. “My little daughter is dying,” he said. “Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live.”

²⁴ Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him. ²⁵ A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. ²⁸ For she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” ²⁹ Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

³⁰ Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my robe?”

³¹ His disciples said to him, “Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

³² But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came, and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. ³⁴ And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.”

³⁵ While he was still speaking to her, messengers arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. They told him, “Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now.”

³⁶ But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, “Don't be afraid. Just have faith.”

³⁷ Then Jesus stopped the crowd and wouldn't let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and John (the brother of James). ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw much commotion and weeping and wailing. ³⁹ He went inside and asked, “Why all this commotion and weeping? The child isn't dead; she's only asleep.”

⁴⁰ The crowd laughed at him. But he made them all leave, and he took the girl's father and mother and his three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. ⁴¹ Holding her hand, he said to her, “Talitha kum,” which means “Little girl, get up!” ⁴² And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! They were overwhelmed and totally amazed. ⁴³ Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone what had happened, and then he told them to give her something to eat.

INSTRUCTIONS

Two stories of healing – what do you see as the same and what is different? And how is faith portrayed?

It's your turn, now, to discuss among yourselves what you have heard in this passage. And what this passage means to you and your faith. On the back of the bulletin, you will find some reflection questions that you can use to discuss at your tables. And for you at home, you will get a chance to listen in to some of the discussions at the table – and then we would love for you to let us know your thoughts in the comment section below this video. You will have about 10 minutes to share.

Discussion around the tables

1. What things do you think are the same and what things are different in these healing stories?
2. How do you think Jairus felt when he knelt in front of Jesus on a public street? How do you think the crowd felt when they saw Jairus, such an important person, kneel to ask Jesus for help?
3. How did the woman in the crowd decide to get Jesus' help?
4. How do you think the woman felt when she was healed so quickly?
5. Everyone in the crowd saw the woman was healed, but who saw Jairus' daughter come to life?
6. Can you think of reasons why Jesus would not want the family to tell others about the girl's return to health?
7. What other questions do you have about this story?

RESPONSE – Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

It has been great to see all the great discussions going on around the tables – and I am sure we could continue with more thoughts and observations. I am curious – did you, by any chance, see any connection in this passage to our theme for the day of “Faith, Family and Fireworks?”

Well, we know for sure that both the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment and Jairus had great faith. And perhaps both their families were so incredibly amazed at their faith and trust in going to see Jesus – and the wonderful healing that took place. Especially the family of the 12-year-old girl who was healed. But fireworks? Where does that fit?

Well – I believe that has to do with the power that Jesus displayed in both stories! Just as fireworks show up best in the midst of a dark sky – Jesus' power and light showed up – and then radiated in the darkness of these two people in great need of healing.

First, we hear that Jairus was in a great need of help – his daughter was dying. With great hope and faith, he went to Jesus and said, “Can you come?” Jesus said “yes!” and started on His way to the man's house. But he was delayed by the woman who also was in great need of help.

With great hope and faith – and courage – the woman reaches out and touches the hem of Jesus’ garment. And Jesus notices – he notices the power going out of Him. She had tried to secretly touch Jesus, but Jesus brings her out in the open and commends her faith. And all are amazed! A firework on display!

While all that is going on – someone comes from the home of Jairus and tells them that his daughter has died. Can you imagine the father’s pain at hearing the news? But Jesus assures him “Don’t be afraid. Just believe!” *“It was in this moment that Jairus had to make a decision. Would he believe the terrible news, or believe in Jesus? Would he stop in his tracks, or continue walking along side the Healer? He had seen that Jesus had power over sickness. Would he believe that Jesus had power over death?”*¹

Jairus believed – and with great faith went on to his home – and went into to see his dead child with his family. And once again the power of Jesus was on display when Jesus called for the dead child to get up. Talk about a huge fireworks display! Everyone in the house was overwhelmed and amazed at this incredible miracle!

And so here is the good news for you and for me: as we put our faith in God - Jesus can bring healing and peace for those times when we are suffering – and even life where there once was death. His power and light can show up in the darkness of our lives – as bright and shining as the fireworks in a dark sky. And that light and power shines – not just for us – but for all to see that glory and power of Jesus.

So the question is: can you put your faith in Jesus as these two did? When you are faced with a very difficult problem, will you bring it to Jesus, and will you walk with Jesus wherever He asks you to go? And will you let your faith and His power shine in your life – so that you can be like a firecracker, shining ‘like stars lighting up the sky’ (Phil. 2:15) in the darkness for others to see Jesus?

Jesus is calling you to have this kind of faith. Just come – with all your needs and struggles – And He will meet you right where you are. He will give you His power and strength – and will even help you shine like bright stars in the night sky – giving glory to God!

Let’s pray:

Oh, dearest Lord – how grateful we are that we can come to You at any time and any place – and that You are our help and our hope. Just as you touched the lives of Jairus and his daughter – and the woman with the hemorrhage – You can touch our lives and bring light and power to us! God, we thank You for shining in our darkness like a bright and beautiful firework in the night sky. Please Lord, help us to reflect Your light – and shine for Your glory in all we do and say! To You be the glory and honor forever and ever! AMEN

GIVING OUR GIFTS AND SHARING IN COMMUNION

Meditation – Chris Mowrer

CLOSING SONG

“My Country ‘Tis of Thee”

My country, ‘tis of thee – Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing – Land where my fathers died
Land of the pilgrim’s pride – From every mountainside
Let freedom ring
Our fathers’ God, to thee – Author of liberty
To Thee we sing – Long may our land be bright
With freedom’s holy light – Protect us by Thy might
Great God, our King

CLOSING PRAYER – Misty Stecher

HAVING FUN TOGETHER – Misty Stecher
10:30am

RESOURCES:

¹BibleLessons4Kidz: *Jesus Heals Jairus’ Daughter*.

http://biblelessons4kidz.com/BL4K%20Database/New%20Testament/The_King_Has_Come/LSN%20-%20Jairus's%20Daughter.pdf