



The Conversion of Saul to Paul

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19th, 2020

Sunday Virtual Worship at 10:30am



Call to Worship

One: God of mystery, You called Ananias by name, and he responded,

All: "Here I am."

One: You called Paul to the work of your Church, and he responded

All: By giving his life to your Word.

One: Similarly, you call us into community and faith,

All: So we respond with love and time, energy and hope. We respond with worship.

One: Let us worship the God of transformation and grace.

All: Amen.

Gathering Song – Old Time Religion & Love Come Down

Old Time Religion



Refrain: Give me that old time re - lig - ion, Give me that

1. It was good for Paul and Si - las, It was

2. It was good for the He - brew chil - dren, It was

3. It was good for our moth - ers, It was

4. Makes me love ev - 'ry - bod - y, Makes me



old time re - lig - ion, Give me that

good for Paul and Si - las, It was

good for the He - brew chil - dren, It was

good for our moth - ers, It was

love ev - 'ry - bod - y, Makes me



old time re - lig - ion,

good for Paul and Si - las,

good for the He - brew chil - dren, It's good e - nough for me.

good for our moth - ers,

love ev - 'ry - bod - y,

Text: Traditional

Tune: OLD TIME RELIGION, Irregular; traditional; arr. by Joseph Joubert, b.1958, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Love Come Down

Words and Music by
Todd Fields, Casey Darnell
and Heath Balltzglier

♩ = 118


CHORUS 1a

N.C.



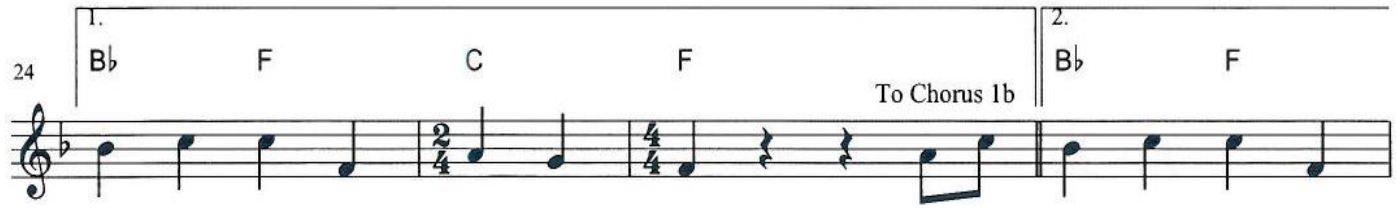
Last time to Coda ☸

20 F C Dm B♭ F C F



God in heav - en heard my plea: Je - sus, Je - sus res - cued me.
 debt e - rased at Cal - va - ry, Je - sus, Je - sus res - cued me.
 grave is emp - ty; I am free. Je - sus, Je - sus res - cued me.

24 1. B♭ F C F 2. B♭ F



Je - sus, Je - sus res - cued me. I will Je - sus, Je - sus

Introduce the Theme with Kids

Welcome, RiverSource and Keyboards

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Holy Spirit of God,

You blow into our lives and send us in directions we never would have gone on our own. Send us into the lives of people we don't know, people we would call 'stranger' and reveal yourself right there to us. We are no longer strangers to each other – you make us brother and sister. Amen.

Greeting

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe that God meets you here. We gather in the name of God the eternal Creator – Jesus Christ, God's only Son and the Holy Spirit – who is with you always... **And also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess that God is God and we are not.

Silence for prayer and contemplation.

Faithful and Merciful God, you know us. You know our lives. Clean up our hearts and minds. By your Holy Spirit, make us new.

All: Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

God we confess—we are loose ends. You give us the gift of community, and we weave walls of exclusion and isolation.

You give us the gift of a new day, and we spend more time unraveling justice than sewing seeds of peace and unity.

You give us the gift of holy surprises and unimaginable beauty, and we shut off our hearts and our blindfolded eyes.

Forgive us for our frayed ends and self-centered hearts.

Unravel the sin in us and replace it with love. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, You have created us in your image and yet we have reimagined ourselves in the image of this world. Like Saul, grab our attention, blind us to our old ways and create in us a new identity – one that reflects your love and your mercy. Amen.

THE STORY

Narrator: Our story and God’s story continues with a reading from Acts 9:1-20

Narrator: Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord’s followers. So he went to the high priest. He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

Congregation: As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?” “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” The men with Saul stood speechless, for

they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

Narrator: Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord!" he replied.

Congregation: The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again." "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name." But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

Narrator: So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength.

Congregation: Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!"

Narrator: Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn – Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace! — how sweet the sound — that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Offering

Worship Leader: *We are grateful for your financial gifts; it's the only way churches are churches. Set up automatic giving by going to our website, riverofhopehutchinson.org and follow the directions to "give online".*

Prayers of the People

Each petition will end with the words: *Lord in your mercy.*

You will respond: ***Hear our prayers.***

THE FEAST

Setting the Table

As the kids help set the table, make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther:

Let's pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

As we are gathered into one body by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us gather at the table, prepared and given for you by Christ. Taste of God's goodness and mercy.

When we come to this table, we bring all of ourselves.

We bring joy and hope, dreams and prayers, grief and doubt, memories and heartache.

God meets us here. God hears our cries and sees our scars.

With open hearts and authenticity, we gather at the table of Christ.

We remember that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

Divine Source of Love and Life, Holy is your unspeakable name. May your Way of Love resound through earth, heaven in our midst. All we need to live and thrive we receive from you, Creator; forgive us when we turn away, as we forgive each other.

Keep us on the path of Wisdom, away from wicked tyranny; Spirit ever breathe through us, empower us with hope.

From you, through you and in you, are all things, now and always; to you be all honor and praise. Amen.

Invitation to the Meal

You are welcome to this meal. It is free and it is for you. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you.

Communion Songs/Hymns – Day by Day

Day by Day



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Blessing after Communion

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, **Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE SENDING

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose?

We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

Purpose Sightings

There are many opportunities to serve God and our neighbor – this is the time to lift those up!

MILESTONES!

Final Blessing

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sending Song – I Saw the Light

I Saw The Light

Words and Music by
Hank Williams, Sr.

♩=112

VERSE

E

E/G#



1. I wan-dered so aim - less, — life filled with sin,
2. Just like a blind man I wan-dered a - long,
3. I was a fool to — wan - der and stray,

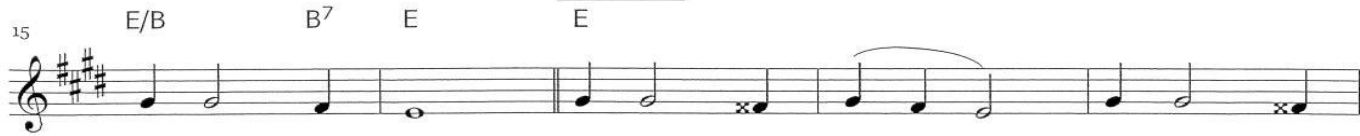


I would - n't let my dear Sav - ior in; Then Je - sus
Wor - ries and fears I claimed for my own; Then, like the
Straight is the gate and nar - row the way; Now I have



came like a strang - er in the night— Praise the Lord! —
blind man that God gave back his sight— Praise the Lord! —
trad - ed the wrong for the right— Praise the Lord! —

CHORUS



I saw the light. I saw the light, — I saw the
I saw the light.
I saw the light.



light, — No more in dark - ness, no more in night; — (And)

CCLI Song # 45064
© 1948. Renewed 1975 Sony/ATV Acuff Rose Music
For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 3277748

A/E

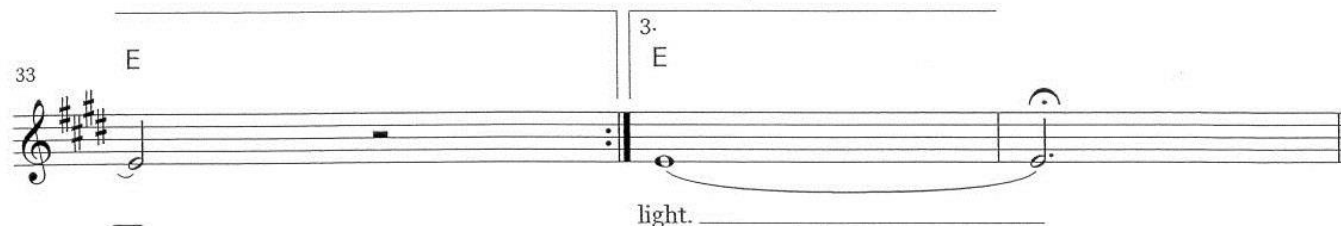
25



30



33



Go in peace – Jesus is with you! **Thanks be to God**

Music to Send you out

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2005 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023086 CCLI License # 3277748