

# Perfectionist

Traditional Worship • April 8

Prayer Concerns: JoAnn McGregor; Becky Atkinson; Pastor Andy & Family for safe travels.

Today's Sanctuary flowers provided by Carla Bolin to the glory of God in memory of her parents, Alvey & Marealla Day.

Today's choral selections are provided by the Temple Choir & the Temple Orchestra under the direction of Joan Nevill. Organist: Barbara Waite. Additional Music provided by Dixielanders.

Ushers April 8: Kathy Zelle, captain; Chuck Taylor, Warren Heinsohn, Jack Buttrum, Ed Ancona, Thornton Patberg (balcony), Margo Borre (balcony)

Ushers April 15: Marty Stilwell, captains; Chuck Taylor, Jacque Hardin, Dick Osmon, Nelson & Joyce Rivers

Greeters April 8: Marty VanStone, Betty Schofield, Wanda Erwin, Carla Bolin

Greeters April 15: Warren & Rosemary Heinsohn, Janet Kissel, Margo Borre

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the good news which we proclaim,

**People: Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!**

Leader: Walk in the light of his love.

**People: See yourself as Christ sees you.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who overcame even death.

**People: Let us celebrate the hope for life.**

### CHORAL INTROIT

"Majesty, Worship His Majesty"

### \*CHIMES & SERVICES OF LIGHT

### \*HYMN #310

"He Lives"

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Please turn to those around you and pass the peace of Christ.

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Let us pray as one.

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Creator God, You made the world in beauty, and restored all things to goodness through Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever Your image is still disfigured by sickness, despair, violence, and greed, Jesus Christ may appear, bringing justice, love, and peace. And now, O God, hear us as we pray, each in our own hearts and our own ways...

### LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13 "Pray then like this: '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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'"

### GIVING TITHES & OFFERING

### \*DOXOLOGY *The congregation stands as the Ushers return the offering to the Altar.*

#95 in Hymnal

### ANTHEM

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee" arr. by Ed Lojeski

### KIDZ MOMENT

Noisy Offering

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5:43-48

Love for Enemies

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. afraid.

### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE UMH #162

"Alleluia, Alleluia"

### MESSAGE by Pastor JillAnn Knonenborg

"Perfectionist"

Good morning. So those of you who have heard me preach before know that I preach from a manuscript. I have all the words I'm going to say right in front of me. Today I'm not going to do that. I'm going to use my little bit of notes here and a slide show; so if today's sermon turns out to be an unmitigated disaster, it's because I'm trying to walk the walk of my sermon today. Namely that we should not be afraid of making mistakes.

But we'll get to that later. Will you pray with me? Gracious God as I strive to deliver your message this morning, may you increase and we decrease. For it is written that only in losing our lives will we find them. Amen.

So maybe you were here last week. We had a pretty big party at church. We sang a bunch of Hallelujahs. We said Christ is risen indeed. And then if you're like me you went home and ate a bunch of chocolate eggs and honey ham, and it's great. Easter is so much fun. It's so exciting. It's been a week, and the world's kind of turning the way that it always has. Life goes on. The good and the bad. Each year after Easter I find myself asking the same question: now what? Now what do we do. How is anything different? Because Jesus rose from the dead 2000 years ago in some backwater in Palestine. Does it mean anything for my life? For your life? For our life together? And I'd like to think, in fact, I know that yes, yes Easter makes all the difference. Not just back then, but here right now because Easter is the best, fullest expression of who God is. In raising Jesus from the dead we see that our God is, supremely loving. God is life giving, rather than life taking. And God is stronger than all those powers of evil and the hatred and death, and because that is the God of this universe, that is the God we worship.

There is hope; so the post Easter question becomes: now that we know who God is, who are we in light of that God? If we have committed ourselves to following that God, who did He create us to be? So for the next nine weeks starting today, our Risen sermon series is all about discovering who we are, who I am, and to our neighbors our. To do that we're going to use a tool. You may or may not be familiar with; it's called the Enneagram. It looks weird, I know. In fact when I heard about the Enneagram a couple of months ago, I was very skeptical. It sounded kind of new age and pseudo science. I wasn't into it, but I found out that it's a tool that people of faith- Christians, Buddhists, Muslim- have been using for centuries. And like all models- economic models, psychological models, scientific models- it's wrong. Because life isn't ever neat and tidy enough to fit into a model, right. But some models are useful. So we're going to use the Enneagram to look at ever selves to listen for the image of God that is within each and every one of us. And fair warning you don't need to know anything about the Enneagram or have taken the Enneagram test to get something out of this sermon series. Though if you do want to take a free version of the Enneagram test, we've put it on the church website.

According to the Enneagram, there are nine types of people in the world, which sounds ridiculous. There's 7 billion people in the world and you're telling me I can divide them into nine categories. Well yes and no because rather than the Myers Briggs, strength finder, other tests you might have taken that are personality tests, the Enneagram is a motivation test. When you're on autopilot just trying to get through the day making snap decisions. What is it just under the surface that's driving you one way rather than the other? And generally speaking, there are nine motivations in human life. We'll get into each one of them and turn through the sermon series. And of course within each type there's going to be infinite variety because each and every one of us is unique. But we can start to see similarities that help us to understand ourselves and others; and that is my ultimate hope for this sermon series- not just that you would start to discover the beauty of who you are of who God made you to be, but also that you would discover the beauty of the person who drives you absolutely nuts.

St. Paul tells us in one of his letters to the church in Corinth that the church is like a human body. And hopefully the mind of that body is Christ's and the heart in that body is the heart of Christ. And then each one of us is a different part of the body. So I might be a hand and you might be a nose; and as a hand I might look at that nose and wonder what good are you? You can't hold things. You're totally different from me. I don't get you at all. In fact wouldn't it just be better if we got rid of all the noses. Life would be so much easier that way. But if the noses all went away, the hands would notice. The body just wouldn't work as well. Something fantastic and important would be missing. Each of us, says Psalm 139, is fearfully and beautifully made by God; so even in that person who drives you nuts- when you talk to each other it's like one of you is speaking Spanish and one of you is speaking Sanskrit, you do not understand them- the image of God is in them too. And so by learning about one another, by having empathy, by discovering each others beauty and the struggles that we each face, we can learn to love one another better.

Today we're going to start with type 1. It's a good place to start. And type ones because I've had to begin the sermon by introducing this whole thing, you are going to get the short stick on time, but if you're type 1 you're probably used to getting the short end of the stick so it won't be very different for you. Depending on what book you're reading about the enneagram type 1 are called Perfectionists, Improvers, Reformers. And remember that this is a motivation test, so the dominant motivation for the type 1 is that they desperately long to be good -to be good morally, ethically, to be good people. Which is amazing because they don't do it because they want to be admired, because they want people to like them, because they want to be popular, successful; ones want to be good because they feel it is the responsibility of being human. They will do the right thing even if it means everybody hates them. We could all learn from that; but it's a double edged sword. Because that desire to be good means that ones are terrified that if they make the slightest mistake- if the bed gets left unmade, if their kids have leftover pizza instead of the three best food groups in their lunch box, if the report gets turned in 10 minutes late -that someone's going to jump out from the bushes and scream at them for being a terrible person. So the emotion that is easiest for ones to access is anger towards themselves. Why did I say that? Why? Why did I mess up? How could how could I do that? And then resentment towards others. Because if I'm working so hard to be good, if I am putting in so much effort and it seems like nobody else cares, I'm going to resent them for it. The ones greatest struggle which I have already kind of alluded to, is their inner critic. The inner critic is a voice that goes 24 hours a day, seven days a week, nit picking at every little thing. By the way if you have this voice, you are probably a one. In fact, my husband who is a 1 was surprised that other people don't have this voice. And it can really wear them down. There is a sense that if they make a mistake, if they are less than perfect 100 percent of the time, that they are unworthy, that they are failures, and that they are not good enough. For those who know or suspect that they are a 1. If you hear nothing else from me today, here this: the voice of that inner critic is not God's voice. God does not speak to you that way.

So was God's idea of perfect is not the idea of perfect that you have for yourself. What is God's idea of perfect? It seems like God's a perfectionist. Sean just read a scripture that ends be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect. Well great. Now I have to be God too. But if we go just a few verses back like we did today, we see that God is not talking about being the perfect weight or having the perfect looks or getting the perfect score on a test. God's idea of perfect is perfect love. Specifically love that extends even to one's worst enemy.

Here's the thing though. For some of us, especially for ones, our greatest enemy is ourselves. The person it is most difficult for us to love is ourselves because we look in the mirror and all we see is inadequacy. All we see is what's wrong and what can't possibly be lovable. God's call for us when we see that, is to hear the whisper that you are fearfully and wonderfully made, that you are made by a God who loved you enough to die for you. And God don't make no junk. To be perfect in God's eyes is to love the one you don't think you can love, even if that is yourself. God made you fragile; God made you limited. It's exactly how God wants you to be. You're getting an A plus on that.

Each week of the sermon series we will offer a spiritual practice that will be especially helpful to people of that motivation type but also will be great for all of us. So this week it is called SNAP, and I will be honest that I usually think acronyms are cheesy and I'm not a fan of them but they are helpful to memorize. SNAP stands for Stop Notice. Ask. Pivot. Sometime this week before next Sunday you we're going to set, and ones I know that if you don't set an alarm you won't do this because you will be afraid of doing it wrong, so you're going to set an alarm. You're going to stop what you're doing you couldn't be because your car so be keeping of, but stop what you're doing and notice. What's going on around you? What's around you? And if you're a one, you're going to gravitate automatically to what's wrong, to what needs to be improved, and I'm going to challenge you to notice what's right, what is good enough exactly as it is. You're going to turn inward and you're going to ask, what am I believing right now? Put another way, what am I assuming about life and the world. That inward has to be perfect? That it's my responsibility to make it perfect? That if I'm not able to make it it's just because I'm lazy and inadequate? And then think about how does it make you feel to believe that? Defeated? Angry? Sad? Motivated? Tired? And last you're going to ask, is what I believe right now actually true? Yes or no. Is it true? And pivot. You're going to pivot away from that unhealthy behavior towards a behavior that honors the beautiful image of God inside of you. You're going to say the Serenity Prayer. If you're not familiar with it it goes like this: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. SNAP the whole thing will take you five minutes. But it can really start to change how you see yourself, how you see the world, and how you see God.

To close today, I just like to say thank you to the ones. Seriously you are awesome. If it were not for ones, human civilization would have collapsed a long time ago. They are so under appreciated. But if you have a project that needs to get done and you ask a one to do it, they will do it so well. They will do it on time; and they'll probably do it under budget. Their sense of responsibility for other people, to other people and their strong desire to be good and the good hearts that they often do have, gives the rest of us a glimpse of the loving goodness of that Easter God. Amen.

### \*TFWS #2146

### \*CHIMES & SERVICE OF LIGHT

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

"Rigaudon" by A. Campra