

Freedom BOUND



Advent - Epiphany, 2015

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- Why the theme "Freedom Bound" for this series?
- We live in the paradox where we are both bound and free, on a march to freedom but encumbered by the burden of sin we carry; we are carrying the scars of struggle but living with a new hope.
- Therefore, we will be reflecting on how God's coming (advent) in Jesus, whom we call the Christ, releases us from personal, social, and historical chains that bind us.
- God's freedom takes us down pathways of **justice, mercy, trust, love, service, and inclusion.**

Psalm 25:1,4 NIV

¹ In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.

⁴ Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

Jeremiah 33:14-16 NIV

¹⁴ “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵ “‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’

“I wear the chains I forged in life.”



The ghost of Jacob Marley
Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"

Jeremiah 33:14-16 NIV

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Mark 1:1-4 NIV

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way” —

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1:14-15 NIV

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

John 3:3-6 NLT

³ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

⁴ “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

⁵ Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.”

Paul, Romans 3:21-24 NLT

²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Paul, Galatians 5:1,13 NIV

¹ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh

“Freedom” by Josh Garrels
Album: Underquiet (2003)



Walking the Road to Freedom

- The path of justice starts with the sins of *your* heart, so look inward and let Jesus begin transforming you
- As exiles for Christ who are bound for freedom, we are to take serious the call to confront the injustices in our own lives and church, which is our first priority
- When we repent of the sins that bind us, we are “preparing the way” for the (advent) coming of Messiah; we are then more suited for doing justice in the world
- What chains (sins) have you been forging in life? What do you need to be freed from so the Kingdom can advance in you, our church, and our community to a greater level?

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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org