

God's all-surpassing power

2 Corinthians 4:1–12

Scripture Text

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Service Outline

Gathering...

called by the words of Psalm 27:1–4

Praise...

singing "Be Thou My Vision" and "Great Are You, Lord"

Lament...

adding our voices to the cry of "For the Troubles" and a poetic video reflection on 1 Peter 5:10

Sermon...

praying to see Christ in the preached word with "Show Us Christ"
and hearing the preached word from 2 Corinthians 4:1–12

Response...

acting out the assurance from 2 Corinthians 4:6 with the passing of the peace and singing of
"Beautiful Things" and "Every Praise"

Sending...

sent forth with God's blessing

Participants: Meg Jenista, preacher; Worship Apprentices/LOFT team and Paul Ryan, liturgists and musicians