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WORSHIP BROADCAST
For Sunday July 17 1977
Jack Shaver

40;10

Call to Worship		1:00
Hymn	<u>THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD</u> T 38 A Service of Sacred Music Moody Chorale Side 2 Band 3	3:55
Invocation		:50
Anthem	<u>O CLAP YOUR HANDS</u> Griffin Collection The Choir Of Paisley Abbey Side 1 Band 4	4:25
Scripture Lessons	Genesis 11: 1- 9 Romans 11: 25-32	3:25
Anthem	<u>YE GATES LIFT UP</u> T 39 Songs of Praise, Hamilton Academy Youth Choir Side 1 Band 6	2:30
Gospel Lesson	John 1: 1-14	1:50
Hymn	<u>MEN GO TO GOD</u> T 23 Dayspring, 24 Hymns from Anglican United Hymn Book Side 1 Band 6	1:20
Prayer		3:00
Hymn	<u>JESUS SHALL REIGN</u> Griffin Collection Toronto Mendelssohn Choir Side 2 Band 4	4:00
Sermon	Bottled Chaos	10:30
Hymn	<u>ROUND ME FALLS THE NIGHT</u> Griffin Collection Toronto Mendelssohn Choir Side 1 Band 4	3:25
Benediction		
Organ Postlude	<u>JESUS SAVIOR PILOT ME</u> T 20 Great Protestant Hymns, Virgil Fox Organist Side 1 Band 4	2:42

Good Evening:

I'm Jack Slater →

I'll be preaching later in the Service
The Sermon title is

BOTTLED CHAOS

During July and August The First Church Service
of worship is Studio Poodwech. 20

ANTHEM

Listen Now to this ANTHEM sung by the choir of Paisley Abbey
"O Clap your Hands"

3:20

4:25

We have three Scripture lessons Tonight.

An Old Testament reading

An Epistle

And a Gospel

The Old Testament lesson is found in Genesis ^{chapter} 11 at the 1st verse
it's the story of the Tower of Babel. → 9

The Epistle lesson is found in Romans the 11th Chapter
beginning at verse 25 (32)

3:25

Here the Apostle Paul is just closing off a troubled discourse
upon the subject of why some of his own people have not
believed the Gospel. →

As a kind of preparation for the reading of the Gospel
listen to The Hamilton Academy youth choir
sing "Go Gates lift up your heads on High" 2:30

ANTHEM

The Gospel Lesson is Taken from the First Chapter
 of John beginning at the First Verse, 5 (14)
 MAY GOD HIMSELF SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD, AMEN

11:50

HYMN There is a new Hymn in the United Church Appeal
 Hymn Book which is a Translation of a Poem by
 Detlev Rooklauffer; No. 105

MEN GO TO GOD

11:20

Let us offer our Prayers to God

OUR FATHER We come to you and you come to us
 It should work better than it does,
 It does work better than we know.

Use our time together so that we know ourselves known.
 It's always a surprise to us when that happens,
 You are always a surprise to us.

Let our secret depths be known to us
 Our doubts, our fears, our buried shame
 our forgotten hopes, our neglected loves.

Let your depth be known unto us
 Your faith in us, your bearing of us, your call to us
 your counting us somebody,
 We so often feel left out. Let us know your acceptance
 of us. If we knew ourselves accepted it would make
 all the difference. If we knew ourselves forgiven - we could
 accept ourselves again; we could face our loved ones again
 we could embrace our lives again - we could engage the
 fallen world again.

Let your spirit be recognized by us - just at the point where we feel ourselves abandoned.

With you, things turn into their opposites ---
Even now - something present with us, which we are rejecting is your saving word to us. Work in us a recognition of that Gift.

Let your Kingdom be recognized by us.

~~world~~ Give us the eyes to see where you are at work in ~~the~~ ^{the} world. Make manifest to us your activity in our midst that we may recognize where we are called to be.

Unite us all in the bonds of a love that leaves no one out.
If we could let your LOVE encompass us we would be up to anything - and we would behold your glory.

And now as our savior taught us we say
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 us our trespasses, as we forgive them that 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, for ever - ever

Amen.

3:00

Hymn 164

Jesus Shall Reign Wherever The Sun

4:00

Sermon →

BOTTLED CHAOS

Thou Whose Almighty Word , CHAOS and DARKNESS HEARD.... and took their flight!

Those are the opening lines of a fine old 19th century Missionary hymn. We've always sung it to the tune MCSCCW.

You could call those lines a paraphrase of the Creation Story in Genesis.

A mighty voice was uttered, Chaos gave way to order, Darkness gave way to light.

Indeed, here is one of the central GOD THEMES of the Bible. .. its one of the reasons people get into the God business. There is order/and there is chaos, The power to make order out of chaos is the power to BE. God is the God of Order. The power opposing chaos. When the forces of the earth, the power arrangements of human beings, people in themselves get out of order.. that's chaos returning to disrupt God's order.. Chaos resists God. ~~One way of identifying the human predicament is that we choose to be disorderly.~~

I'd sung the song for years before I really heard the words.....

Thou whose almighty word, Chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight.

..... at the sound of a mighty voice.. chaos and darkness take off into the distance.

That would be a great kind of word to have around when life gets dark and chaotic.

Just the thought of it cheers me up. .. A Great HARRUMP putting chaos and darkness to flight.

But as our readings tonight suggest, There are variations to the Biblical theme of God and Chaos. It appears there are times when God sends chaos, or confusion, or disobedience.!

The classic example of the story of the tower of Babel in the early part of Genesis. In this story God sends disorder. There was something about the way humankind was ordering its life that was offensive... destructive. ..The remedy was to send confusion. The mighty scheme falls apart as the people find themselves alienated from each other, unable to understand each other and possessed with languages they find foreign to each other they scatter across the earth.

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The inference is that the people were united in an order that was somehow offensive.

Let us build ourselves a city
and a tower with its top in the heavens
and let us make a name for ourselves.

The Lord Said:

Behold they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do, and nothing they propose to do will be impossible for them..

In making a name for themselves... they will abide by no limits.

The result of that presumption is confusion.. A presumptuous order is the enemy of God.

I find it fascinating that there are these two themes in the Bible around the concepts of Chaos and Order

The one depicts the human predicament in that we rebel against order, and so disrupt creation, the other depicts the human predicament in that we choose an order that is contrary to creation.

It is the latter of these themes I wish to explore tonight

It seems that whatever else is true of us, however much we resist order, we do long for order. For comprehension, for coherence.

I will always remember an interview I had(it's years ago now) with a resident of a juvenile detention home. He shared with me his interest in History as a school

subject. When I asked him if he could say what interested him in the study of history he said that he wanted to be able to reach back and put his finger on what it was all about. He wanted all the fragments of life to come together. He wanted to be able to comprehend the story of his life. He wanted life's contradictions to give way to coherence.

That's a profound human need.

We are in serious distress unless we ~~get~~ get it together.

But that is only part of our dilemma.

It seems that any kind of order won't do. Life can latch onto a coherence that contains the seed of its own destruction. This same lad explained to me why he was having such a rough time at the detention home. Indeed why he had a tough time at school and at home and why he had been detained. And that was that the only way he could keep his life together was to be one up on every authority figure or anyone else that threatened him. The way he gave his life coherence made everyone else his enemy.

Our three scripture passages suggest some elements that would mark a Faulty Coherence.

1. In the story of Babel it is a Coherence that abides by no limits

a. Our lad was like that. He was caught in an ordering that tramped all over everyone else.

b. Another example of faulty coherence is practiced by adolescents and by all of us to the extent that we all perpetuate our adolescence, That is the practice of gaining coherence to life by creating a dream world that has no grounding in reality.

c. Another example is the impasse facing our modern technological development, where the limits to what the environment Earth can bear is confronting us with a pollution crisis, an energy crisis, a population crisis a food crisis.... Here a profoundly powerful way of ordering the whole of western civilization is being visited by disorder because it ~~is~~ committed to an order that abides by no limits.

In our second reading, the passage from Romans, we have the strange statement that God is causing all to disobey in order that all might be saved. A coherence that leaves someone out, that leaves a whole people out, is visited by disorder.

a. The Great North American dream is an example of of this faulty ordering. Here the dispossessed of Europe, and indeed the rest of the world, were gathered up out of religious and class and national fractionalism into a glorious unity of freedom equality and happiness.... while in the doing of that it wiped out the Native Indian... Nor did it even feel any Fault in its glorious dream until the Viet Nam War and the revolt of Black America caused it to lose its innocence.

b. The same is true of our great economic order, producing the highest standard of living for the greatest number of people in the history of the human race, but leaving out the poor. But having no dynamics within its ordering for including the have not peoples. When there is commitment to that kind of ordering, God sends Chaos.

c. Our own confrontation with our Northern Natives over northern development is an example of God's disordering our order when we leave out whole peoples and their way of ordering.

It the Gospel reading, which is sometimes called John's creation story it is pointed out what God's Order is all about. The LIGHT WHICH LIGHTETH EVERYMAN WAS COMING INTO THE WORLD. God's Order is not for some at the exclusion of others. God's Order is an Order that leaves no one out. As long as we gather around less than that we are blessed with disorder.

Three years ago we had a student minister around here called Dean Salter. He graduated and went to Salmon Arm and thence to Saskatchewan.

He wrote a charming little article that appeared in the latest OBSERVER THE Natuonal Magazine of the United Church of Canada.

In it he described a few of the disasters and near disasters that befell him during the first years of his settled ministry.

It occurred to him that in the Beginning, when God overcame Chaos, He Bottled it. So that when people get together a coherence which is

presumptuous

Made up of dreams that have no basis in reality

Transgresses another's territory

Leaves someone out

He can pour some Chaos ^{all} ~~out~~ over it.

Dean Called it

The Pause that refreshes.

10:30

OUR CLOSING HYMN ~~XXXXXX~~

Round Me Falls the Night

3:25

Benediction.

Organ Postlude

Jesus Saviour Pilot Me

2:42