

Message for Sunday, August 9, 2026

Scripture: Romans 10:4-15

Title: Good News

Welcome

Announcements: Giving options, electronically, during offering, online, QR code. Special offering for month of August-The Arc-A local organization that offers support to those with developmental disabilities.; The Food Pantry meets this Wednesday at 8:30AM; The learn to knit/crochet group meets on Wednesday at 9:30AM

Fellowship of Love

Song

Call to Worship

L: Christ comes for us in sunshine and in the dead of night. We welcome the presence of Christ.

P: We welcome you, O Christ! Blessed be your name!

L: Christ reaches out to us in the stillness of peace and in the rage of the storm. Nothing overwhelms our Savior. Nothing overcomes.

P: Our hope and trust are in you! Blessed be your name!

Unison Prayer

Merciful Christ, fill us with your faith and courage, that we may never

Message for Sunday, August 9, 2026

Scripture: Romans 10:4-15

Title: Good News

**be overwhelmed by great needs, but rather with your great grace,
your great strength, your great compassion, your great presence,
your great hope.**

**Fulfill your greatness in us and through us for the honor and glory of
your name, for the saving of lives, for the redemption of our world.
Amen.**

L: As we come to this time of offering, let us remember that giving is an
opportunity to respond to God's generosity with our own.

Offering/Special Music Gayle Benjamin

Scripture: Romans 10:4-15 NRSV

Salvation Is for All

⁴ For Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness
for everyone who believes.

--

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that
“the person who does these things will live by them.”

Message for Sunday, August 9, 2026

Scripture: Romans 10:4-15

Title: Good News

--

⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down)

--

⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

--

⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim),

--

⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

--

¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation.

--

¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

--

Message for Sunday, August 9, 2026

Scripture: Romans 10:4-15

Title: Good News

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

--

¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

--

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?

--

¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Message: Good News

We pick up our place in Romans today after talking about Paul’s grief last week. We talked about how grief can define us. We also talked about how Paul uses his grief to talk about what he knows about God. Paul starts with what he knows, that nothing separates us from God’s love, not with what he doesn’t know, who will be saved.

Today there are a number of items to think about. This passage talks a significant amount about the law and what is the fulfillment of the law. I'm not going to focus on this part of the passage today. I do think it is an important topic to talk about, what is the role of the old testament law in the life of a Christian. I do think it is often given more control over our lives than it should have. Suffice it to say that Paul's argument in this passage is that Jesus fulfilled the law. Essentially Paul is saying you don't have to strive after the law today because Jesus has fulfilled it. I think the law can often help us to understand ourselves better, but we need to remember that we live in God's grace and not under the law because none of us can live up to all the expectations of the law sufficiently.

So if we aren't going to focus on that what will we focus on? What I want to focus on is at the end of the selection. That it is our task as believers to share the good news. Too often Christianity in America has set evangelism aside as something that people who are trained as evangelists do. The reality of this passage, and of the rest of the new testament is that all of us are expected to be evangelists.

Some of you right now just heard me say that and you took a big gulp. I want to make something clear; evangelism is not forcing someone to

Message for Sunday, August 9, 2026

Scripture: Romans 10:4-15

Title: Good News

believe the way you believe. This week I watched a series of videos where there were evangelists trapping people, so they are forced to listen to them. I watched an evangelist trap a person on a moving train and started talking, then I watched several different videos of people on a plane starting a worship service and preaching a message to the people on the plane. This is not evangelism. This is abuse. If you have to trap people to hear your message then you are not doing what Paul is talking about, and the blessing “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” doesn’t apply to you.

While I have never categorized myself as an evangelist I have done evangelism and I do believe that we are all called to evangelize. We are all called to share our faith. What that looks like varies from person to person and from place to place. Ultimately the first thing we need to talk about is, what are you sharing?

I have been in tent revivals and with evangelist. Almost without fail there is some blending of theology with fear. Fear of judgment, fear of punishment. Fear of eternal damnation. Famously, Jonathan Edwards, the primary evangelist of the Great Awakening in America said in his sermon “Sinners in the hands of an angry God” says “The God that holds you over

Message for Sunday, August 9, 2026

Scripture: Romans 10:4-15

Title: Good News

the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked.”

Images of divine retribution, divine judgment. You are unworthy and if you don't realize it and repent you will be condemned. The one video I saw of an evangelist on a train, when people started arguing back with him that they should be able to sit in peace changed his message really quickly. He went from “I love you and God loves you” to “God hates sin, and God judges you” fast. What really is the good news? Many of us grew up with hearing this type of presentation as the Gospel. A vague lingering sense of divine punishment as a threat always in the back ground.

For Paul, the message we are called to share is good news. That good news is that “nothing separates you from Gods love.” Paul already stated that. That is not to say judgment doesn't happen. It's not to say that repentance isn't needed. The real problem is though that evangelists start there. Not with the love of God experienced. Where you start is the love that God has shown you. When we are called to evangelize we are called to share with others how God loves them just as God loves us. That is a powerful message. One that overcomes all things.

Message for Sunday, August 9, 2026

Scripture: Romans 10:4-15

Title: Good News

I believe we are called to evangelism. We are all called to share our faith, one grounded not in a confession of faith, but one that is grounded in the overwhelming love of God. Are people going to run to Christ for this? Some will, some won't. Some will think its silly, and some will realize in their darkest times that you talked about how God loves you no matter what. That is evangelism, that is the good news. That is the news we are blessed for when we bring it. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Song

Benediction

Song

Goodbye