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| **Slide** | **Sermon** |
| 1 | Power In The Cross Luke 23:32-34; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 |
| 2 | Intro – Power -  Forces of Nature – Hurricanes: Katrina, this week - Iota slamming into Central America, Western Fire storms, earthquakes in Haiti |
| 3 | Forces of War – H-bombs, armed drones that released sulfur bombs on civilians and military strikes in Artsakh and Armenia |
| 4 | Forces of spoken word – Emancipation Proclamation - Four Score and Seven Years ago....  - Ask not what your country can do for you, Ask what you an do for your country... President Kennedy  - God said. Let there be..... and it was good  - Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing. Jesus from the cross.... |
| 5 | Forces of Evil – Drugs, random shooting into houses and cars, arson, Discrimination, |
| 6 | At the end of the Christian year, the week before Advent, walk with Jesus to Jerusalem – we read about opposing powers clashing.  Today the scene is Jesus being crucified –  Read Text – Luke 23:32-34  **32**Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. **33**When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. **34**Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2023:32-34&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25970a)] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. |
| 7 | Jesus is being overcome by the powers of the world.  we see 3 representatives of that power   1. Jewish leaders – scoff 2. Romans – soldiers and Pilate; inscription; mock 3. one criminal – derides   Jesus, the Son of God, The Messiah, seems to have no power to match the powers of the world – religiously, personally, politically. Pure evil is unabated, has free reign. |
| 8 | And this evil has plagued Christians throughout the ages.  Today we suffer the world powers, don’t we?   * Economic oppression – jobs sent overseas, cutbacks, loss of work, feel helpless, rich getting richer on the backs of the poor * Political – seems that government leaders do what they want, and nothing really changes, the division of the left and right is getting wider * Health Care problems – COVID 19 continues to infect more and more people around the world and especially in the US, vaccines are nearing approval but will take months to produce and distribute, costs of medical care escalates faster than income and government attempts to control it.   Will such evil power be the end of us? |
| 9 | Armenia and Artsakh - they are facing evil, for 6 weeks bombs from drones which have many parts from US companies and supplied by Turkey who bought some from the US, have rained down upon them. Backed by Turkey with these weapons several thousand soldiers and civilians have died. No one has come to the aid of these Christians whose Christian heritage goes back to 301 when Armenia became the first Christian nation in the world. It is a battle over territory. |
| 10 | But deeper than that it is a battle over existence. Like the religious leaders in Jesus' day decided that "it is **better** **for** you **to** have **one** **man** **die** **for** the people than **to** have the whole nation destroyed.” John 11:50 Of course they were referring to it is better for Jesus to die because he was leading the people of accept him as savior which would cause the whole nation to be destroyed by the Romans.  Azerbaijan and Turkey feel like it is better to wipe out a whole race and community of faith than to have them as a blot of tarnish in the middle of the Muslim's vast territory in that part of the world  The Armenians have always been targets of Turkey and the surrounding nations who are linked to them by their ancestry and Muslin faith. In 1915 - 1921 Turkey committed a genocide against them killing 1.5 million and caused many more to flee to nations around the world for safety.  These people are once again facing pure evil as again they are being killed and driven out of their ancestral homeland.  Are Armenians going to fall to the evil powers of the world? |
| 11 | Will we be ones to be over run and destroyed by the evil I have spoken of this morning?  Does the Cross have power to overcome evil?  When we look at the cross that killed Jesus our Savior, was that the last word?  No! By No Means! |
| 12 | Paul wrote about Jesus’ power – I Corinthians 1:17-25 (READ)  **17**For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.  **18**For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19**For it is written:  “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;     the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”    **20**Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21**For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. **22**Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, **23**but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24**but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25**For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. |
| 13 | Jesus God’s Son   * Died on cross for sins * Raised to new life – defeats death * Invites us into fellowship   Foolishness to Gentiles  Stumbling block to the Jews  But for those who believe – There’s power in the Cross!!  Forgiveness of Sin, new fellowship with God and each other; it changes how you view life and how you choose priorities. |
| 14 | The Armenians are suffering greatly! Project Agape is being force to relocate within the borders of Armenia. The Board met this week and committed to continue to help with humanitarian aid! The Armenians still have confidence some in the world will come to their support. But most of all they still believe there is power in the Cross. The still believe that Jesus defeated the evil behind the cross. |
| 15 | Elizabeth C. Clephane expressed that love and power in her hymn, *Beneath The Cross of Jesus*.  *This hymn, written in 1868, was published anonymously and posthumously in 1872 in the Scottish Presbyterian periodical Family Treasures under the title of “Breathing on the Borders.”*  *This hymn of commitment was written by a frail Scottish Presbyterian woman of the past century, Elizabeth Clephane, who, despite physical limitation, was known throughout her charming community of Melrose, Scotland, for her helpful, cheery nature. Among the sick and dying in her area she won the name of “Sunbeam.” Beneath The Cross of Jesus was written one year before her early death at the age of 39. It is obvious that Elizabeth was an ardent Bible student, for her hymn is replete with biblical symbolism and imagery.*  *It's words are a powerful testimony to how the cross assures us of Christ's power will meet the challenges of each day! listen to these words:* |
| 16 | *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*  *Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,*  *The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land*  *A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,*  *From the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.* |
| 17 | *O safe and happy shelter, O refuge tried and sweet*  *O trysting place where Heaven’s love and Heaven’s justice meet!*  *As to the holy patriarch that wondrous dream was given,*  *So seems my Savior’s cross to me, a ladder up to heaven.* |
| 18 | *There lies beneath its shadow but on the further side*  *The darkness of an awful grave that gapes both deep and wide*  *And there between us stands the cross*  *two arms outstretched to save*  *A watchman set to guard the way from that eternal grave.* |
| 19 | *Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see*  *The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me.*  *And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess;*  *The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.*  *I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;*  *I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;*  *Content to let the world go by to know no gain or loss,*  *My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.* |
| 20 | *Words so powerfully testifying to the Power of God through this instrument of death.*  But the Cross’ power is that it points to a God who loved so much that God sacrificed the Only Son, bearing our sins, in order that we might have an everlasting friendship with God! |
| 21 | On this Christ the King Sunday, it is good to be reminded that it was through the cross Jesus became the king of Kings, the Lord of Lords who gives all followers the power to stand up to evil and help build God's Kingdom!  On this Christ the King Sunday, It is important to know that without the cross and Jesus' resurrection we would have no need to celebrate Christmas!  So, as you enter into Advent, keep in mind that we only do so because we have experienced Power in the Cross!  Amen |