**Sunday, August 26, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** *Romans 5:6, 9-11*

This morning we have come to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our hope is in the Lord, who welcomes broken sinners like us and freely offers grace. Listen to God’s word:

 *When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.*

**Song of Praise –** *The Wonderful Cross*

**Think of the Cross –** *J.C. Ryle*

 *"*Are you seeking salvation, but doubtful whether you can find it? Are you desiring to have an interest in Christ, but doubting whether Christ will receive you? To you I say this day, "Behold the cross of Christ." Here is encouragement if you really want it. Draw near to the Lord Jesus with boldness, for nothing need keep you back. His arms are open to receive you: His heart is full of love towards you. He has made a way by which you may approach Him with confidence. Think of the cross. Draw near, and fear not.”

**Song of Worship –** *I Am Thine, O Lord*

**True Love of the Father –** *1 John 3:1-2*

 *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears**we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

**Songs of Worship –** *How Deep the Father’s Love/You Are My King*

**Offering *(“Prayer is always a great feature of every revival, great prayer meetings, intercession hour after hour. They pray for these people by name and they plead, and they will not let God go, as it were.”* Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones)**

**A Heart of Prayer *–****John MacArthur/Charles H. Spurgeon*

Before Jesus gave up His spirit as He hung on the cross, He took time to pray for those who were murdering Him. He prayed, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” God began to answer His prayer on the Day of Pentecost as some three thousand people repented and were baptized that day, and there have been countless multitudes that have been saved through the centuries. In response to Jesus’ intercession for the transgressors, God has snatched many souls from eternal death.

 Do you have a heart to pray for the lost like Jesus did?

 This ought to be a burden on our hearts; this ought to be prayed out of the lowest depths of a soul that is all aglow with sympathy for them. They are dying; they are dying; they are dying without hope. .. Oh! my dear friends, will you die in your sins? Will you live in your sins, for if you live in them you will die in them. My friends, will you die without a Savior? Will you live without a Savior? For if you live without him, you will assuredly die without him.

 It is of no use for me to preach to the people, my dear Christian brothers and sisters, unless you pray for them. It may be that you who pray have more to do with the blessed results than we who preach.

 Do pray for conversions. Never give up praying for your unconverted wife or husband! Never cease to pray for your unconverted children. Never let the devil tempt you to be silent concerning your ungodly neighbors, but day and night, in the house and on the road, lift up your hearts to God in real prayer. He has given us his pledge that he will answer: believe it, and you shall see it, and you shall have the joy of it while He shall have the glory.

 We should encourage all to heed the words of Isaiah 45:22…

 *“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”*

**Songs of Worship –** *Softly and Tenderly/Show Us Christ*

**Message** – *“When You Pray”*
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:5-8*

 **1. Prayer’s Prohibition**

* Jesus warns us about the hypocrites who pray to be seen. He also warns about their long meaningless repetitions &/or ritualized prayers.

 **2. Prayer’s True Practice**

* *Its place* – a set aside place – the heart is a special place.
* *It’s private* – in the secret place of the heart (Old Testament: Holy of Holies)
* *Its privilege* – we have an audience with our God; sweet communion to share our hearts, but more so to know His heart!

 **Take-away’s**

 1. Prayer is simply communion with God our Father.

 2. Prayer calls us to “clear the air” through confession of sin.

 3. Our greatest conflicts come when we go to God in prayer (Jesus in the wilderness/garden). Satan hates our fellowship with the Father. (Adam in the garden.)

 4. Prayer is the cure for man’s loneliness. Man is born rebellious of God but once regenerated he is in sweet fellowship with Him.

 5. Prayer’s secret place is where we find our strength, security, and sufficiency alone with God. Compare that to the hypocrites who found their strength from the praise of man.

 6. Prayer’s pattern is simply talking to God because He knows your needs already.

 7. Prayer’s reward is simple! Compare the pleasure of praying to God to the hypocrite whose reward is the praise of man.

 **Time of Prayer**