**Sunday, August 5, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** *Psalm 118, Matthew 18:20, Luke 24:34*

*Joyful is the sound we make today!  
For this day liberates us from doubt and fear.  
Thankful is the song we sing!  
For this day moves us past darkness and despair.  
Hopeful is the prayer upon our lips!  
For this day awakens in us long-awaited new life.  
Jesus said, “Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”  
Christ lives here and now. He is among us at this and every moment!  
He is risen!  
He is risen indeed!   
He is risen!  
He is risen indeed!   
He is risen!  
He is risen indeed!*

**Song of Praise –** *See What A Morning*

**Made Alive With Christ –** *Ephesians 2:4-7*

*Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—*

*It is by grace we have been saved.*

*And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

**Songs of Worship –** *Once Again/My Jesus, I Love Thee*

**Your Sins Shall Be White As Snow –** *Isaiah 1:18-20*

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

**Song of Worship** – *Jesus Paid It All*

**Offering *(“All our infirmities, whatever they are, are just opportunities for God to display His gracious work in us.”* Charles H. Spurgeon)**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty *–****Revelation 4:6-11*

God’s word assures us that the One who redeemed us is worthy to receive glory and honor and power. Holy is the Lord God Almighty who is worthy to be praised. Hear the word of the Lord, Revelation 4:6-11.

*And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,*

*“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”*

*And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,*

*“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”*

**Songs of Worship –** *Holy, Holy, Holy/We Fall Down*

**Message** – *“Love Your Enemies*   
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:43-48*

**1. The foundation for Jesus’ teaching is His holy law**

* Leviticus 19:2, 18
* Exodus 23:9
* Deuteronomy 10:19
* Deuteronomy 18:13

**2. Wrong teaching leads to bad believes that results in wrong behavior**

* How we behave is really a reflection of what we believe.

**3. The kind of love we see in vs 45 is not what makes us sons but rather is evidence that we are His.**

* Ephesians 2:8
* John 3:5

**4. “Common grace” to all men**

* The sun rises on the evil and on the good
* God sends rain on the just and the unjust

**5. Jesus’ words, “Do the same” shows us that when we reject this teaching and refuse to love our enemies we, by our attitude and actions, put ourselves on the same moral and spiritual level of the people we claim to be “better than.”**

**6. In vs 48, the call is to full obedience, not just a half-way effort to be better than others but to press on to be like our Father.**

**7. In light of Jesus’ teaching, how does this, or does it, confront today’s church culture of “American conservatism”, right wing, church going people? Does it feed hate and fear?**

**8. How does Jesus’ teaching challenge our view of people and their needs?**

**9. How can racism be taught or accepted by God’s people?**

* Think about how hard it is to be different in our natural sinful state – being prejudice is natural to all of us.

**10. Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:21-48 that we should be challenged to get sound biblical teaching in our lives.**

**Time of Prayer**