**Sunday, February 19, 2012**

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**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Sing Unto God** – Colossians 3:16; Romans 15:5-6

*Colossians 3:16:*

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*

*The Bible mentions singing over 400 times, including 50 direct commands to sing God's praise. And because God is infinitely wise and good, His commands are always for His glory and our benefit. We sing because Jesus Christ has given us a reason to sing. We sing together because through His once and for all sacrifice, Jesus has joined us together as a people.*

*Romans 15:5-6 tells us:*

*“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,* ***that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

*This morning, let’s join our voices together and declare our commitment to follow King Jesus, as we bring glory to the One who made it all possible.*

**Song of Praise** – *At Calvary*

**Costly Grace vs Cheap Grace** –*Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Source: justificationbygrace.com)*

*Do you remember the refrain of that great Isaac Watts hymn “At the Cross”? The chorus went like this:*

*At the Cross, at the Cross, where I first saw the light  
And the burden of my heart rolled away  
It was there by faith I received my sight  
And now I am happy all the day!*

*It seems that for most “Christians” in America today, the emphasis in the church is “now I am happy all the day!” rather than “At the Cross.” That’s alarming because the cross of Jesus Christ is the most important aspect of the gospel. Too many people have cheapened the grace of the cross. In his book, Costly Grace, Dietrich Bonhoeffer describes the difference between cheap grace & costly grace.*

*Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of the Church. It is grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the Cross, grace without Jesus Christ.*

*On the other hand , costly grace is the Gospel we are fighting for today . It must be sought again and again, the gift, which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it condemns sin and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it costs God the life of His Son: “ye were bought at a price,” and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. It is grace because God did not reckon His Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered the Lamb to rescue the souls of men. What a wonderful, merciful Savior is Jesus our Lord.*

**Songs of Worship** – *Wonderful, Merciful Savior/There is A Fountain*

**Worthy is the Lamb who was Slain –** *Revelation 5*

*Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

*And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,*

*“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”*

*Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,*

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,   
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”*

*And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,*

*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”*

*And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

*Let’s join all the hosts of heaven who are singing around the throne, magnifying the Lamb who was slain.*

**Song of Worship** – *Worthy is the Lamb*

**Offering**

**Just Come to Him as you Are *(Charlotte Elliot) (Source:*** *bibleits.com)*

*Charlotte Elliot was aghast that anyone would ask about the condition of her soul. But in May, 1822, that is what the visitor, Dr. Cesar Malan, asked of her. Later in the visit she apologized to her guest and said, “I am sorry for my rudeness. Actually I would like to come to Christ, but I do not know how to find him.” Dr. Malan knew that she had been relying on her own efforts for her salvation from sin and so replied, “come just as you are. Cut the cable; it will take too long to unloose it. It is small loss anyway.”*

*Charlotte Elliot had been an invalid for most of her life. Now in 1834 at the age of 46, twelve years after her conversion, Charlotte wanted to do something to help her minister/brother raise money for his new school. Everybody in town was doing something, everybody, that is, except for Charlotte. She could hardly get around her room. In the middle of a sleepless night, oppressed with a sense of helplessness, she wrote the formula of her faith in six short stanzas, the first which goes like this:*

*Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come*

*Jesus, the Lamb of God, has come to take our sin. John the Baptist announced it:*

*"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29)*

*If you are like Charlotte Elliott was, wanting to know how to come to Christ, just follow the advice of Dr. Malan and the words of the hymn they inspired: "Just come to Him as you are."*

**Songs of Praise –** *Just As I Am/Hide Away in the Love of Jesus*

**Message** – *“The Coronation of the King”*

*Scripture Reference: Matthew 3:13-17*

1. ***Baptism***
   * *Jesus could have possibly walked up to 60 miles to present Himself for a baptism he didn’t need but he did so to identify with us, as sinners.*
2. ***Prevented***
   * *John prevented the religious leaders from being baptized. They needed to be baptized but were more interested in possibly “looking good”. Jesus didn’t need to be baptized but wanted to because it was right.*
3. ***Obedience***
   * *John baptized Jesus only after a word from our Lord…we must act upon His words!*
4. *We see the* ***Doctrine of Baptism*** *by immersion is made very clear.*
5. *We see the* ***Doctrine of the Trinity*** *very clear.*
6. ***Dove***
   * *The dove speaks of peace but also speaks of lowliness. The dove was a poor man’s offering in the Old Testament.*
7. ***For Us to Fulfill all Righteousness***
   * *Deut 29:29*
   * *Identify – 2 Corinthians 5:21*
   * *Sumbolic of His death & resurrection*
8. ***Heavens were Opened***
   * *Speaks clearly of God’s approval of His son & His work. Connect the dots…John 14:3 & Acts 7:56*
   * *The way is clear for you & me…let’s go to Him!*

**Time of Prayer**