**Sunday, January 15, 2012**

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**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – Psalms 2:4 47:6; 63:1-4; 66:4

*I have asked one thing from the LORD; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the LORD and seeking Him in His temple.*

*God, You are my God; I eagerly seek You. I thirst for You; my body faints for You in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.*

*So I gaze on You in the sanctuary to see Your strength and Your glory. My lips will glorify You because Your faithful love is better than life.*

*So I will praise You as long as I live; at Your name, I will lift up my hands.*

*All the earth will worship You and sing praise to You. They will sing praise to Your name.*

*Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our King, sing praise!*

**Songs of Praise** – *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name/Lord, I Lift Your Name On High*

**Why Was Jesus Born** *(Excerpt from the sermon “Why Was Jesus Born by John MacArthur)*

You came from heaven to earth to show the way;  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.   
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

*Why was Jesus born? Why did He come? To present God? Yes. To teach truth? Yes. To fulfill law? Yes. To offer His kingdom? Yes. To teach those who did not understand about God? Yes. To reveal love? Yes. To bring peace? Yes. To heal the sick? Yes. Those are secondary reasons why He came. There is really one primary reason, one primary plan, one primary purpose ‑ Jesus came to suffer and to die. That's why He came. Bethlehem only happened so Calvary could happen. He was only a baby so He could be a man and die. He only lived in order to die.*

*Those soft baby hands, fashioned by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb were made in order that nails might be driven through them. Those chubby feet, pink and unable to walk, were one day to walk a hill and be nailed to a cross. That sweet head with sparkling eyes and eager mouth was formed in order that some day men might crush into a crown of thorns. That tender body, warm and soft, wrapped in swaddling clothes would one day be ripped open by a spear to reveal a broken heart and that's exactly why God made that body. Jesus was born to die*

**Songs of Worship** – *In Christ Alone/The Power of the Cross*

**Offering**

**Christ Is All *(Excerpt from the sermon “Christ is All” by Charles Spurgeon)***

*My text, Colossians 3:11 “Christ is all” is so very short that you cannot forget it; and, I am quite certain, if you are Christians at all, you will be sure to agree with it. "Christ is all”… in what is he all? Christ is all in the entire work of salvation. Let me just take you back to the period before this world was made. There was a time when this great world, the sun, the moon, the stars, and all which now exist throughout the whole of the vast universe, lay in the mind of God, like unborn forests in an acorn cup. There was a time when the Great Creator lived alone, and yet he could foresee that he would make a world, and that men would be born to people it; and in that vast eternity a great scheme was devised, whereby he might save a fallen race.*

*Do you know who devised it? God planned it from first to last. Neither Gabriel nor any of the holy angels had anything to do with it. I question whether they were even told how God might be just, and yet save the transgressors. God was all in the drawing up of the scheme, and Christ was all in carrying it out. There was a dark and doleful night! Jesus was in the garden, sweating great drops of blood, which fell to the ground; nobody then came to bear the load that had been laid upon him. An angel stood there to strengthen him, but not to bear the sentence. The cup was put into his hands, and Jesus said, "Father, must I drink it?" and his Father replied, "If thou dost not drink, sinners cannot be saved"; and he took the cup and drained it to its very dregs.*

*No man helped him. And when he hung upon that accursed tree of Calvary, when his precious hands were pierced, when:--*

***"From his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flowed mingled down,"***

*there was nobody to help him. He was "all" in the work of salvation.*

*And, my friends, if any of you shall be saved, it must be by Christ alone. There must be no patchwork; Christ did it all, and will not be helped in the matter. Christ will not allow you, as some say, to do what you can, and leave him to make up the rest. What can you do that is not sinful? Christ has done all for us; the work of redemption is all finished. Christ planned it all, and worked out all…May God give all of you grace to repent, and to embrace the salvation which is revealed in the gospel! Every sin-sick soul may have Christ; but as for you who are Pharisees, and trusting in yourselves that you are righteous, if you know nothing about sin, you can know nothing about Christ. The way to be saved is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Songs of Praise –** *I Am Thine, O Lord/All I Have Is Christ*

**Message** – *“The Incarnation”* Scripture Reference: Matthew 1:18-25

* The Virgin Birth (vs 18)
* Joseph is confronted (vs 19-20)
* The reason for Jesus coming is clarified (vs 21) “Save His people from their sins”
* God’s decree. God had ordained this arrival. (vs 22-23)
* Consummated. Joseph acts upon God’s call. (vs 24-25)
* “Take-away Points”
  + The doctrine of the virgin birth is essential for our salvation!
  + The Holy Spirit can create anything from nothing as the Father decrees it.
    - (Compare Genesis 1:2 & Matthew 1:18)

**Time of Prayer**