

# Sunday, January 20, 2013

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – *Psalm 113:1-3; Psalm 108:104*

We have gathered here this morning because we have been called to worship GOD!! And so our gathering, our singing, our prayers, our worship is in response to this call from scripture to worship and praise the almighty God, the creator of the universe! Hear the word of our Lord:

*Servants of God, praise, praise the name of the Lord.*

*Bless the Lord's name now and always.*

*Praise the Lord's name here and in every place from east to west.*

*Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!*

***We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!***

*We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,  
we will sing praises to you among the nations.*

***For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.***

**Song of Praise** – *Shout To the North and the South*

**Jesus Christ Is Lord**

Proclaim this truth with me, once, again:

***Jesus Christ is Lord of heaven and earth!***

We, the Church, are commanded to put our armor on and step out in faith proclaiming this truth to those held in captivity. Christ will have the prize for which He died, an inheritance of nations!

**Song of Worship** – *O Church Arise*

**Confession/Assurance of Pardon** - *Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16; Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7*

In this battle, we must not forget that we are called to love the captive soul but to rage against the captor, Satan. We must share the proof of God's amazing love. Hear the word of God:

While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, let us silently confess our sin before God and one another,  
and ask the Lord to give us the strength to fight against Satan.

Let's pray.

Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

**Song of Worship** – *Before the Throne of God Above/I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

**Offering**

**The Center of the Worship Service** – *Ephesians 1:17-19/Jeff Baxter*

As we prepare to move our hearts and thoughts towards the preaching of God's Word, let us be reminded that the primary task of the church and that of the Christian minister is the preaching of the Word of God.

The local church is not a club, entertainment center or social organization. It is the pillar and foundation of God's Truth. The vision, mission and core value of the church is to share the Truth of God's Word for life-transformation (1 Timothy 3:15). This Truth should be the center of the worship service experience.

The congregation should eagerly anticipate the preaching of God's Word and look forward to what God has to say to their hearts week after week.

The health of any local church is directly proportional to the place of preaching in the worship service. Local churches, like those in the book of Acts who centralize Biblical preaching are bound to be healthy God-worshipping churches. Believers do not come to be critiquing consumers, but consumers of God's Word. Those which place other elements equal, or above the Word of God spoken, are caving to the world's short-term experiences. The result will be a starving congregation that will lead to death.

The Welsh Protestant minister, and medical doctor, Martin Lloyd-Jones once said,

*"Is it not clear as you take a bird's eye view of church history, that the descendant periods and eras in the history of the church have always been those periods when preaching had declined? What is it that heralds the dawn of a Reformation or Revival? It is preaching."*

Let's take a brief moment to silently pray and ask the Lord to prepare our hearts for the Word of God.

-Silent Prayer-

God of Jesus Christ, give us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Christ, so that the eyes of our hearts might be enlightened. Help us to know the hope to which you have called us, the riches of the glorious inheritance in the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of your power at work in us.

Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear your Word with joy.

**Song of Worship** – *Speak, O Lord*

**Preparing Our Hearts**

Continue to prepare our hearts, O God, to hear your Word and obey your will. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**Song of Worship** – Show Us Christ

**Message** – *“The Power Over Disease and Death”*

*Scripture Reference: Matthew 9:18-26*

**Time of Prayer**

**Song of Worship** – *It Is Not Death To Die*

**Closing Prayer**