**Sunday, January 22, 2012**

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**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – 1 Chronicles 16:23-36

*Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

*For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.   
For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.   
Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place.*

*Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,   
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.   
 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;   
bring an offering and come before him.   
Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.*

*Tremble before him, all the earth!   
The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.*

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;   
let them say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”   
Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!   
Let the trees of the forest sing, let them sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth,*

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.   
Cry out,   
“Save us, God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations,   
that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise.”   
   
Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.*

*Then all the people said   
“Amen” and “Praise the LORD.”*

**Songs of Praise** – *Forever/Step By Step*

**How Lovely Is your Dwelling Place** *(Psalm 84)*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!   
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.  
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah  
Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.  
As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.  
They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.  
O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah  
Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!  
For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.  
For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.  
O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

**Song of Worship** – *Better Is One Day In Your Courts*

**Give Me Christ Or Else I Die** – *William Hammond*

The following lyrics are from the hymn, *Give Me Christ Or Else I Die*, which was written in the 1700’s by William Hammond. May this be our earnest prayer and desire.

“Gracious Lord, incline thy ear; My requests vouchsafe to hear;  
Hear my never-ceasing cry; Give me Christ, or else I die.

Wealth and honor I disdain, Earthly comforts, Lord, are vain;  
These can never satisfy; Give me Christ, or else I die.

Lord, deny me what thou wilt, Only ease me of my guilt.  
Suppliant at thy feet I lie; Give me Christ, or else I die.

All unholy and unclean, I am nothing else but sin;  
On thy mercy I rely; Give me Christ, or else I die.

Thou dost freely save the lost; In thy grace alone I trust.  
With my earnest suit comply; Give me Christ, or else I die.

Thou dost promise to forgive All who in thy Son believe;  
Lord, I know thou canst not lie; Give me Christ, or else I die.”

**Song of Worship** – *Give Me Jesus*

**Offering  
  
Worship the Lord *(Charles Spurgeon)***

Matthew 2:1-2

*“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*

There is much to be learned from the action of these wise men; so let us, in thought, follow them. They have come to the house where the young Child is. What will they do? Will they stand still, and look at the star? No; *they enter in.* The star still shines, but they are not afraid of losing its radiance, for they have come where they can behold the Sun of righteousness. They lift the latch, and enter the lowly residence of the Babe. They see the star no longer, and they have no need to see it, for there is “He that is born King of the Jews.” Now the true Light has shone upon them from the face of the Child; they behold the incarnate God.

How wise you will be if, when you have been led to the place where Christ is, by any man, you do not rest in his leadership, but resolve to see Christ for yourselves! How much I long that you may enter into the fellowship of the mystery, pass through the door, and come and behold the young Child, and bow before Him! Our sorrow is that so many are so unwise as to be content with seeing us. We are only their guides, but they are apt to make us their end. We point the way, but they do not follow the road; they stand gazing upon us. It was not so with the wise men. The star had done its work, and passed away; but Jesus remained, and they came unto Him.

You cannot properly worship a Christ whom you do not know; but when you think of Jesus Christ, whose goings forth were of old, from everlasting, the eternally-begotten Son of the Father, and then see Him coming here to be a man of the substance of His mother, and know and understand why He came, and what He did when He came, then you fall down, and worship Him. “*Son of God, to Thee we bow, Thou art Lord, and only Thou; Thou the woman* ’*s promised seed; Thou who didst for sinners bleed.* ” We worship “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Our faith sees Him go from the manger to the cross, and from the cross right up to the throne; and there, where Jehovah dwells, amidst the insufferable glory of the Divine presence, stands the very same Person who slept in the manger at Bethlehem; there He reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords. Our souls worship Him. Thou art our Prophet; every word Thou sayest, we believe, and desire to obey. Thou art our Priest; Thy sacrifice hath made us free from guilt, we are washed white in the fountain of Thy blood. Thou art our King; give Thy commands, and we will obey them; lead Thou on, and we will follow. Thou art God, and we worship Thee.

Let us exalt Christ the Lord and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

**Song of Praise –** *Sing Allelu (Ode 40)*

**Speak To Us –** *John Buchanan*

Startle us, O God, with your truth and open our hearts and our minds to your wondrous love.   
Speak your word to us; silence in us any voice but your own   
And be with us now as we turn our attention, our minds and our hearts, to you.

**Song of Praise –** *Speak, O Lord*

**Message** – *“Wise Men Still Worship Him”* Scripture Reference: Matthew, Chapter 2

* We can see God’s effectual call & drawing of His worshipers to Himself (John 4:23, 6:44)
* I believe the star is God’s own glory that shines into the Wise Men’s hearts. Thos who seek Him are those who are called by Him…light leads to more light. (Heb 11:6, 2 Cor 4:6, 2 Pet 1:19)
* God is seeking true worshipers and worship is the result of the new life we have been given in Jesus Christ. (John 4:23)
  + How is your devotional life?
* Isaiah 55:11 “accomplish that which I purpose” The word of God was known by the Wise Men, more than likely from the former preaching of the Prophet Daniel
* The Chief Priest & Scribes teaches us that you can know about the word of God but apart from the life giving spirit of God you just remain indifferent to it.
  + If you are indifferent to God’s word today, why not ask Him to blow His spirit across the ambers of His holy word & set your soul a fire.
* We can see God’s perfections in His will, omniscient & His foreknowledge
  + Prophecy spoken & fulfilled
  + Knowledge of what is going to happen
  + Even in his wickedness, Herod fulfills God’s will.

**Time of Prayer**