**Sunday, March 4, 2012**

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**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**The Reason You Were Created** – John 4:23, 24; Hebrews 10:22 (*Source: John MacArthur*)

John 4:23-24

*“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

*Acceptable worship doesn’t just happen spontaneously – you must prepare yourself. Hebrews 10:22 says, “Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” That verse begins with the phrase “let us draw near” – it is our call to worship.*

*The failure to worship God in spirit and in truth is not just an unfortunate lapse in spiritual enthusiasm, it is a sin. To love the Lord you God with all of your heart, soul, and mind is not the greatest suggestion in the Law, it is the greatest commandment.*

*Perhaps you’ve been attending church for years, but you’ve never really drawn near to God, nor have you sensed His nearness – even in your own private devotions and prayers. God has redeemed you so you can worship Him. It is the purpose for which you were created. Before we begin our worship service, take these next few moments to bow your head and confess your sins, clear your conscience, and ask God to teach you more and more by experience what it is to worship Him in spirit and in truth. That is a prayer our great God will delight in answering.*

**Song of Praise** – *Holy, Holy, Holy*

**Magnify the Lord with Me** –*Psalm 29:2; Psalm 34:3*

*Give to the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness or in holy array. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.*

**Songs of Worship** – *He Is Exalted/Our Great God*

**Worthy is the Lamb** –*Revelation 5:11-14*

*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.*

**Songs of Worship** – *We Fall Down*

**Offering**

**Light for Those who Sit in Darkness *– Charles H. Spurgeon (Preached on September 10, 1871)***

*I wish it were in my power to convey the light which I see in the cross into the mental eyeballs of all my hearers, but I cannot; God the Holy Ghost must do it. Yet, beloved, if ever you get light, it will be in this way: Christ must be a great light to you. Nobody ever found light by raking in his own inward darkness; that is indeed seeking the living among the dead.*

*You may rake as long as ever you will among the embers of your depravity before you will find a spark of good there. Away from self, away from your own resolutions, away from your own prayers, repentances, and faith; away to Christ on the cross must you look.*

*All your hope and help are laid on Immanual's shoulders. You are nothing. Not a rag nor a thread of your own righteousness will do; Christ's robe of righteousness must cover you from head to foot.*

*Blow out your paltry candles, put out the sparks which you have vainly kindled, for behold the Sun is risen! "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Ye want no other light than that of Jesus: dream of no other. Give up self, give up self-hope, be in utter despair of anything that you can do, and now, whether you sink or swim, throw yourself into the sea of Christ's love: rest in him and you shall never perish, neither shall any pluck you from his hands.*

*Join me as we continue worshiping the Light of the world, Jesus Christ. Let us once again be reminded that devoting our lives to God’s glory means sacrificing self. It should be our prayer that we be drawn nearer to Christ and the cross upon which He died.*

**Songs of Worship –** *I am Thine, O Lord/At the Cross*

**Message** – *“The Ministry of Jesus”*

*Scripture Reference: Matthew 4:12-17*

1. *Jesus is the Light*
   * *John 1:4, 5, 8, 9*
   * *John 3:19-21*
   * *John 8:12*
   * *John 9:5*
   * *John 12:35, 36*
   * *His light: receives, redeems, rejoices, rejects, repels, reveals*
2. *Two candles given to man after the fall to light men’s dead souls: creation candle & conscience candle (Romans 1:18-21)*
3. *Our fallen sin nature desensitizes man to His spiritual/moral crisis & to His truth/light.*
4. *We serve on the Gospelship…it is a BATTLESHIP not a CRUISE SHIP! (Source: Steven Lawson)*

**Time of Prayer**