**Sunday, May 13, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Make A Joyful Noise To God –**Psalm 66

 **Let us make a joyful noise to God.
 O Lord, our Lord, your name is more than glorious!
 Let us praise the name of the Lord.
 O God, your acts of love and mercy are awesome!
 Let us worship and bless the name of the Lord.
 We worship you Lord! We worship and adore your holy name!
 The sound of praise will be forever on our lips!
 Amen!**

**Song of Praise** – *He is Exalted*

**Acceptable Worship** - *Psalm 99:9, Psalm 95:6*

 Exalt the Lord our God,
 and worship at his holy mountain;
 for the Lord our God is holy!

 “The most important and highest activity

 that a company of God’s people could ever engage in, is to offer

 Almighty God acceptable worship.

 Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us

 kneel before the LORD our Maker.

**Song of Worship** – *How Great Is Our God*

**God’s Great Love** –Ephesians 2:4-5

When was the last time you were really and truly gripped by God’s greatness? Ephesians 2:45 tells us:

 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions —it is by grace you have been saved.*

 If a man has Christ, he has all for eternity; and if he has not Christ, he is poor, and blind, and naked, and will be miserable for ever. Will not you, then, who are listening to me now, resolve, in the strength of the Lord, to seek him at once, and make him your Friend? No matter what may be your state or condition, you are invited to come to him. The only hope you have is in Christ alone.

**Song of Worship** – *In Christ Alone*

**Offering**

**Would You Be Holy *–****J.C. Ryle; Hebrews 12:14*

 *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

 The wise man tells us, there is “a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to be silent and a time to speak,” but there is no time, no, not a day, in which a man ought not to be holy.

 Would you be holy? Would you become a new creature? Then you must begin with Christ. You will do just nothing at all, and make no progress till you feel your sin and weakness, and flee to Him. He is the root and beginning of all holiness, and the way to be holy is to come to Him by faith and be joined to Him. "Without Christ we can do nothing.” It is a strong but true saying of Traill's, "Wisdom out of Christ is damning folly; righteousness out of Christ is guilt and condemnation; sanctification out of Christ is filth and sin; redemption out of Christ is bondage and slavery."

 Do you want to attain holiness? Do you feel this day a real hearty desire to be holy? Would you be a partaker of the divine nature? Then go to Christ. Wait for nothing. Wait for nobody. Linger not. Think not to make yourself ready. Go and say to Him, in the words of that beautiful hymn-

**"Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, flee to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace."**

 Lord, save me even now from all evil, and enable me to honor my Savior.

**Songs of Worship –** *Rock of Ages/We Fall Down*

**You Are Worthy, O Lord –** *Revelation 4:8, 11*

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
 Who was and is and is to come!"
 "You are worthy, O Lord,
 To receive glory and honor and power;
 For You created all things,
 And by Your will they exist and were created."

**Song of Worship –** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

**Message** – *“Blessed are the Peacemakers”*
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:9*

 *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”*

Our peace was lost in the garden and there will be no peace until Satan is removed and rebellious hearts are changed.

1. **The Meaning of Peace: Righteousness and Truth**
	* “*The essential fact to comprehend is that the peace about which Jesus speaks is more than the absence of conflict and strife; it is the presence of righteousness. Only righteousness can produce the relationship that brings two parties together. Men can stop fighting without righteousness but they cannot live peaceably without righteousness. Righteousness not only puts an end to harm, but it administers the healing of love.”* (John MacArthur)
	* James 3:17, Hebrews 12:14, Psalm 85:10, Matthew 10:34
	* The good news of the gospel is only good if the bad news is first presented and understood. The preaching of truth that leads to the gospel of peace will harm, offend, antagonize, and produce anger before it can bring healing, harmony, peace, joy, and gladness.
	* Those who are unwilling to disrupt or disturb others for God’s name and truth cannot be peacemakers. To settle for anything less than His truth confirms and confines people to their sin.

2. **The Make and Means of Peace: God**

* Jesus is our peace with God
* Ephesians 2:13-14, Colossians 1:19-20
* We have been bought new by the blood of His cross.

3. **The Ambassadors of Peace: Believers**

* 1 Corinthians 7:15 – Called to peace; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 – Ambassadors of peace; Romans 5:1 – Peace with God; Philippians 4:7 – the peace of God
* Four characteristics of peacemakers:
	1. We have made peace with God (Romans 5:1, 10; Colossians 3:15; Ephesians 6:15).
	2. We lead others to make peace with God (Poor in spirit are the only peacemakers!)
	3. We help others make peace with others (Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18). To be a bridge builder both sides must build on the solid base of Gods righteousness and truth. Rebuking of sin is many times the first step (Matthew 18:15-17).
	4. We should endeavor to find a point of agreement.

4. **The Result of Peacemaking: Sonship**

* We are called and are sons of God – this is our greatest heritage!
	+ A continual disruptive, divisive, and quarrelsome person has good reason to doubt his sonship.

**Takeaways**

* Reflect over these beatitudes: Are we His? Are **you** His?
* James 3:13-18 – Keeping peace in the fellowship.
* A disciplined church is made up of disciplined individuals. A disciplined church produces an attitude and atmosphere of peace because of righteous actions.
* We are at peace with God but every day we sin. We must continually confess and ask the Holy Spirit for cleansing so that we can be at peace with God in fellowship and help others who are struggling.

**Time of Prayer**