**Sunday, November 25, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** *Isaiah 60:1-5*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.*

*For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;*

*but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.*

*And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

*Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you;*

*your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.*

*Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,*

*because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

Hear God’s command, “ARISE!” God is not begging, pleading or advising you to arise. This is an order coming from the Commander-in-chief of the heavenly hosts. It is our duty and responsibility to obey his command. The battle will be difficult and at times the battle will be discouraging but 2 Chronicles 20:15 tell us to not fear or be dismayed because of the vast army that is against us, for the battle is not ours but the Lord’s. Wherever you are, God is saying to you, arise! Are you ready for action? Let’s join this heavenly call and put on the full armor of God, so that we may be able to stand our ground. Hear the encouraging words of Amy Carmichael, missionary to India...

Wars and battles, shocks and heartbreaks, weariness and hidden scars,

But a vision of the triumph, wounded, let us rise and sing

Welcome to our Coming King.

**Song of Praise –** *O Church Arise*

**Search Our Hearts, O God –** *(Source: S. Weber)*

Father, we hunger for the day when we will stand in Your glory. But until that time we need to be constantly reminded that You created us with a set purpose in mind. As You search our hearts, may You find them to be pure, undivided, and wholly true to You. We’re grateful for Your promise to guide and keep us secure no matter where we dwell. Father, what blessed assurance it brings to know that we can never move beyond Your compassionate care or loving favor. Not only do You grant us every breath on earth, but You will also help us conquer death. Because of these glorious provisions, we have blessed assurance now and blessed hope for our eternal future! Amen.

**Song of Worship –** *Blessed Assurance*

**Deliver Us, Father**

Say the chorus of Blessed Assurance with me:

This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Is Christ truly your story…is He truly your song? Let’s take a moment to examine our hearts and to offer our praises unto Him.

*Silent Prayer*

Father, deliver us from every evil habit, all accumulation of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of His grace in us, and deliver us from those things that prevent us from taking delight in Him and praising His holy name.

**Songs of Worship** *– Draw Me Close/I Need Thee Every Hour*

**Offering *(“O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams.”* Augustine; 354-430)**

**Our Helper, The Holy Spirit – *John 14:15-25; John MacArthur***Hear the word of God:

*"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My command­ments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him…But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remem­brance all that I said to you.”*

When Jesus told the disciples to believe in Him just as they believed in the invisible God, He said He would send the Holy Spirit, who would remind them of His presence. The Holy Spirit's ministry is to show us Christ. He assures us that Christ really exists. In John 16:15 Jesus says, *"All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."* Nothing can take the place of the Holy Spirit's work in the life of the believer. Through Him we are *"heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ"* (Romans 8:17). We are infinitely richer than all the billionaires of the world put together because what we possess is an eternal inheritance.

Paul, quoting the prophet Isaiah, wrote, *"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9). Christians are rich beyond imagination. And the greatest resource of all--the Holy Spirit--dwells in us and is with us forever.

**Songs of Worship –** *Holy Spirit/Speak, O Lord***Message** – *“The Faith Of A Centurion”*   
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 8:5-13*

It is good to look at Luke’s account in order to give us a fuller perspective of the work of our Lord.

1. **Draw**

* John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him…”
* John 20:30-31; John 10; Matthew 4:23-25
* These mighty words of His teaching and miraculous works were God’s means of drawing men to Himself.

**2. Description of the Centurion**

* Personal – sincerity, sensitivity, humility, love and depth of faith!
* He was not presumptuous.
* He was humble, taking nothing for granted.
* He saw his sin and Christ’s perfection.
* He was perceptive; he had a dilemma that only a miracle could fix; he knew distance was no problem; he understood delegation of power and authority.

**3. Destination**

* The kingdom of heaven – glory!
* Faith is the key!
* Revelation 7:9-12

**Time of Prayer**