**Sunday, October 21, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** *Psalm 105:1-3*

*O Give thanks to the Lord!
Call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell all of his wonderful works!
Glory in his holy name!*

O Lord Most High,
who dwells beyond the heavens,
You can’t be compared with anything,
you’re far beyond our loftiest thoughts.
Gather us together in the name of Jesus,
whom the angels adore, whose name is above every name.
Lead us in our worship, that all we do might be
filled with your grace, directed by your wisdom,
informed by the truth, and accomplished to your glory.
We ask all this through Christ, our Lord,
whom with you, our Father, and the Holy Spirit,
we constantly seek to glorify. Amen!

*(Prayer by Hughes Oliphant Old)*

**Songs of Praise –** *And Can It Be/My Savior’s Love*

 **I Will Praise You, O Lord My God –** *Psalm 86:12-13*

 *I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.*

 **Song of Worship –** *Sing Allelu*

**By the Grace of God** *– Acts 15:11*In his old age, when he could no longer see to read, John Newton heard someone recite this text, "By the grace of God I am what I am." He remained silent a short time and then said: "I am not what I ought to be. Ah, how imperfect and deficient! I am not what I wish to be. I abhor that which is evil, and I would cleave to that which is good. I am not what I hope to be. Soon, soon I shall put off mortality,
and with mortality all sin and imperfection.

 Though I am not what I ought to be, what I wish to be, and what I hope to be; yet I can truly say, I am not what I once was--a slave to sin and Satan! I can heartily join with the apostle and acknowledge--By the grace of God I am what I am!"

 Acts 15:11

 *“But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus...”*

**Song of Worship –** *Amazing Grace***Offering *(“One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove at the Last Day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time.” John Piper*)Ask, Seek, & Knock – *Matthew 7:7-11/Ligon Duncan*** *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

 When we need discernment and when we seek for spiritual blessings, if we will ask and we will seek and we will knock, the heavenly father is ready and waiting to pour out blessing on His children. In fact, He is more ready to give than we are to receive. Won't you prepare yourself to receive by grace through prayer to Him? Let’s look to Him in prayer now.

 Our Father, we thank You for the privilege of prayer to be able to talk with You, to be able to share the desires of our hearts with You. We ask that You would give us the grace to trust You, to always know that You answers will be better than our own answers and to persevere in that prayer. Give us the spirit of Christ, as we pray. For we ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Songs of Worship –** *What A Friend We Have In Jesus/I Need Thee Every Hour*

**Message** – *“The Golden Rule”*
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 7:7-12*

**Take-away’s**

1. The whole of God’s word can be summed up into Matthew 22:36-40 – Love God and love thy neighbor!

2. Bishop J.C. Ryle: “(This truth) settles a hundred different points…it prevents the necessity of laying down endless little rules for our conduct in specific cases.”

3. Many practice a cheaper version of the golden rule which is simply a negative spin of this positive command. It simply becomes a “don’t do” rather than a “do unto others.”

4. The promise of verses 7 and 8 are first and only to Gods children that are walking in obedience.

5. “Who are evil” speaks of our falleness. Note to whom Jesus is speaking to…we, His children!

6. Ask, Seek, and Knock. Aren’t you glad that God doesn’t give you everything you’ve asked for, but rather what we need?

7. God gives good gifts to His children.

8. Luke 11:13; let us be thankful for the best gift, God Himself…the Holy Spirit.

**Time of Prayer**