

Sunday, January 27, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 18:1-6, 46, 49*

Welcome! We gather as a church to respond to the God who made the world and spoke to us. He is worthy of our best and loudest praise – so join with us as we unite our voices and sing.

Let's begin by hearing God's word and remembering what He has done:

I love you, Lord; you are my strength.

The Lord is our rock, our fortress, and our savior;

my God is my rock, in whom I find protection.

He is our shield, the power that saves us, and our place of safety.

I called on the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies. The ropes of death entangled me; floods of destruction swept over me. The grave wrapped its ropes around me; death laid a trap in my path. But in my distress I cried out to the Lord; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears.

The Lord lives! Praise to our Rock! May the God of our salvation be exalted! For this, O Lord, we will praise you among the nations; we will sing praises to your name.

Song of Praise – *He Is Exalted*

Great Is Your Name and Love – *Isaiah 55:12*

*O God, you summon the day to dawn,
you teach the morning to waken the earth.*

***For you the valleys shall sing for joy,
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.***

*For you the kings of the earth shall bow,
the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.*

***Your love and mercy shall last forever,
fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.***

*Great is your name. **Great is your love. Amen.***

Song of Worship – Here Is Love

Confession – Psalm 51:1-4, 6, 9-11

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. The following Psalm was written by King David after he fell into sin with Bathsheba. Let us make this our confession of sin.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

*You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.*

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

***Do not cast me from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.***

Assurance of Pardon – Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Hear God's Word:

*Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.
In Christ we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.*

Thanks be to God.

Songs of Worship – Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus/Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus/Isaiah 43:1-3

Offering

Come Unto Me – Matthew 11:28/James Smith (1856)

"Come unto Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest!" Matthew 11:28

Jesus is speaking to you. He calls you to him. He wishes you to approach him. He bids you come. Do you ask, "Why does he call me?" Because he knows that you need him.

No one can save your soul, but himself.

Nothing can cleanse you from your sin, but his blood.

Nothing can justify you before God, but his righteousness.

Nothing can make you fit to go to Heaven, but his Spirit.

No one can render you happy or honorable, but himself.

He knows that unless you go to him, you must perish forever. You must be restless, weary, and laboring in vain through life, and lie down in sorrow at last.

He has all that you need, for all fullness dwells in him. His heart is full of kind thoughts respecting you, and kind feelings toward you. He wishes you to be happy, to be holy, to be safe. He is *able* to make you so. He waits to make you so. Therefore he says, "Come unto Me!"

Do you ask, "What must I bring with me to recommend me?" Nothing! Absolutely nothing! You need no recommendation. Your *misery* is enough. Your *poverty* is enough. Your *danger* is enough. Jesus *invites* you, therefore he wants nothing from you as a recommendation. He did not wait until you were willing, until you were crying after him; but before you were willing, and in order to make you willing--he sends his loving invitation and says, "Come unto me! Come just as you are. Come for all that you need. Come this moment. Let there be no delay. Let there be no hesitation. Let there be no fear; but, come unto me, and I will give you . . .

rest from your burdens, freedom from your toil, refreshment in this desert world, and life everlasting beyond it!

Come unto me, and I will introduce you to my Father. I will secure your pardon. I will gain your access into his presence. I will procure for you his smile and eternal benediction. Come unto me, and I will . . . conquer your foes, subdue your iniquities, supply all your needs, gratify all your good desires, and ultimately make you more glorious than an angel of light.

Come, for all things are now ready. Come, for I am waiting to be gracious. Come, and I will rejoice over you to do you good. Come, and I will fill you with all joy and peace in believing!"

Sinner, thus Jesus speaks to you. Thus he speaks to you today--after *living in sin* so long--after *slighting his Word* so long--after *hardening your heart* against his Word, his mercy, and his love, so often and so long. Jesus thus addresses you at this moment. What do you say? Will you go to him? Go--or refuse to go, you must. Go to him and be made happy--or stay away and be miserable, you must. There is no middle course. Which shall it be? Which? Can you refuse him? What, deliberately, again, after so many calls, refuse him? If you reject him now, it may seal your doom forever.

God may say, "Why should I invite him anymore? Why should I allow him to trifle with my grace any longer? Why should I give him an opportunity to insult me to my face, time after time, thus? Let him alone! Give him up. He deserves Hell--for he chooses it. He ought not to be allowed to enter Heaven--for he refuses it. He prefers . . .

Satan to me, the world to my church, sin to my service, his own lusts to my grace, to wallow in the mire of corruption to walking in the ways of holiness.

Let him alone. Invite him no more. Record his conduct, register his choice, write down his doom.

As he loves sin--let him have it. As he chooses Hell--let him go to it.

As he refuses my counsel, as he will have none of my reproof, as he slights my warnings, despises my threatenings, rejects my invitations, and tramples upon my kindness--I give him up, and leave him to reap the due desert of his deeds!"

Oh, sinner, sinner, should this be the case with you--it will be all over with you forever. Jesus will no longer stand at the door and knock. The Spirit will no more strive with you. Your conscience will harden, your heart will become obdurate, and you will, perhaps, add open rebellion to your sin.

"Let them alone!" Matthew 15:14. There is a moment in every lost sinner's existence, when God gives him up. What a moment is that! What are the results of that just and holy act of God? One must know what the horrors of Hell mean, and what it is to have the stamp of eternity placed on those horrors--before one could answer that question.

Let me beseech you, listen to the invitation of Jesus. Do not, do not put it from you, and pronounce yourself unworthy of everlasting life. Do not seal your own doom forever! Do not choose death in the error of your ways. Oh, do not, do not! But before God swears in his wrath that you shall never enter into his rest, before the *door of mercy* is closed upon you forever, before your light goes out in eternal darkness--come, come, come to Jesus, and be saved by him freely and forever! Hear the conclusion of the whole matter--you must come to Jesus and be saved--or refuse to do so, and be eternally punished for your sin! Which shall it be? God asks you, Which?

Songs of Worship – *Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy/Softly and Tenderly*

Message – *“Where Is Your Faith”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 9:27-34

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Sing Allelu*

Go Ye Therefore – *Matthew 28:19-20*

As we prepare to leave this place, let us speak together God's invitation to a life of Christian discipleship.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to
obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the
age.*