

Sunday, March 10, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22*

We have gathered here this Lord's Day to praise and worship our Gracious God. Let's join together in worshiping through scripture:

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Christ, in this hour of worship lift us out of the routine of our daily lives and set us up on your holy mountain. Let our worship come from our hearts, that it may be genuine. Let our praises for you leap from our mouths, that we may be alive with faith and joy. Make us fresh again! Amen.

Song of Praise – *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Wandering From God – *Robert Robinson*

Prone to wander...like many of us, Robert Robinson, author of the hymn, 'Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,' lost the happy communion with the Savior he had once enjoyed, and in his declining years he wandered into the byways of sin. As a result, he became deeply troubled in spirit. Hoping to relieve his mind, he decided to travel. In the course of his journeys, he became acquainted with a young woman on spiritual matters, and so she asked him what he thought of a hymn she had just been reading. To his astonishment he found it to be none other than his own composition. He tried to evade her question, but she continued to press him for a response. Suddenly he began to weep. With tears streaming down his cheeks, he said, 'I am the man who wrote that hymn many years ago. I'd give anything to experience again the joy I knew then.' Although greatly surprised, she reassured him that the 'streams of mercy' mentioned in his song still flowed. Mr. Robinson was deeply touched. Turning his 'wandering heart' to the Lord, he was restored to full fellowship.

Let's take the next few moments to confess our sins to God, asking Him to forgive us as we have allowed our hearts and minds to wander far from Him. May we find true restoration in God alone. Let's pray.

Silent Prayer

Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Yet we confess that our hearts have been enslaved by selfish passion and base desire. We have sought after many things and have neglected the one thing needful. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; help us to turn to you and find forgiveness. Lead us home, that we may again find in you our life and joy and peace. Amen.

Song of Worship – *I Worship You, Almighty God*

Prayer For Guidance

God our helper, show us your holy ways and teach us your paths. By your Holy Spirit open our minds that we may be led in your truth and taught your will. Then may we praise you by listening to your Word and by obeying it. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Songs of Worship – *Show Us Christ/Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

Offering - *Afflictions are light when compared with what we really deserve. They are light when compared with the sufferings of the Lord Jesus. But perhaps their real lightness is best seen by comparing them with the weight of glory which is awaiting us.* Arthur W. Pink

I Saw the Lord – *Isaiah 6:1-5/John Newton*

"In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord! He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the Temple. Hovering around Him were mighty seraphim, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with the remaining two they flew. In a great chorus they sang, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty! The whole earth is filled with His glory!' The glorious singing shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire sanctuary was filled with smoke! Then I said, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, because my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty!'" Isaiah 6:1-5

Oh! for a glance of what *Isaiah* saw, and has described! Oh! that we, by the power of that faith, could behold the glory of the Lord filling this house; that we could realize the presence and the attitude of His attendant angels! They cover their faces and their feet with their wings, as overpowered by the beams of His majesty; and conscious, if not of defilement like us, yet of unavoidable inability as *creatures*, to render Him the whole of that praise and homage which are justly due to Him!

Oh! that, by faith, we could enter into the spirit of their ascription—'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is filled with His glory!' If we were all thus affected, as the prophet was, surely each one for himself would adopt the prophet's language. Or, if a comfortable hope in the Gospel prevented us from crying out, "*Woe is me, for I am ruined!*" we should, at least, say, (the Hebrew word might be so rendered,) "*I am silenced, I am struck dumb! I am overwhelmed with confusion and shame; for I am a man of unclean lips myself, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty!*"

If we have a degree of this impression, we shall not perplex ourselves concerning the second causes, or immediate instruments of our calamities. The *evil of sin*, contrasted with the *holiness and glory of God*, will engross our thoughts! And we shall ascribe all the troubles we either feel or fear—to our own sins, and the sins of those among whom we dwell.

Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty!

Songs of Worship – *Holy, Holy, Holy/O Come Let Us Adore Him/We Fall Down*

Message – *“Jesus Affirms John”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 11:7-15

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy*

Benediction