

# Sunday, May 12, 2013

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – *Psalm 34:1-3 (Source: The Worship Sourcebook)*

Lord God, we gather in this place not because we are deserving of your love and not because we have lived faithfully before your face. We gather here because you have called us. You loved us before we could love you. You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, thanking you. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! You are great, and greatly to be praised. As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, whose death and resurrection give us hope. Through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord:

Psalm 34:1-3

*I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.*

**Songs of Praise** – *He Is Exalted/I Will Glory In My Redeemer*

**Prayer of Confession** – *1 Peter 2:24 (Source: The Worship Sourcebook)*

Most merciful Redeemer, we come to you exalting and glorifying your name. You were tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will.

Say with me the amazing words from 1 Peter 2:24:

*Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. By his wounds we are healed.*

*Let us spend the next few moments in silent prayer as we confess our sins before our Living God. Let's pray.*

**Song of Worship** – *Nothing But the Blood*

**Assurance of Pardon** – *Romans 5:8-9*

Hear the good news of God's word:

*God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!*

Romans 5:8-9

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**Song of Worship – *The Love of God***

**Offering** - *“You are as much serving God in looking after your own children, training them up in God’s fear, minding the house, and making your household a church for God as would be if you had been called to lead an army to battle for the Lord of hosts.”* Charles H. Spurgeon

**Let Nothing But Faith Be In Thy Soul** - *Ephesians 2:1-8/Charles H. Spurgeon*

This is the word of God from Ephesians 2:1-8

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

I saw the other day a remarkable picture, which I shall use as an illustration of the way of salvation by faith in Jesus. An offender had committed a crime for which he must die, but it was in the olden time when churches were considered to be sanctuaries in which criminals might hide themselves and so escape. See the transgressor—he rushes towards the church, the guards pursue him with their drawn swords, all athirst for his blood, they pursue him even to the church door. He rushes up the steps, and just as they are about to overtake him and hew him in pieces on the threshold of the church, out comes the Bishop, and holding up the crucifix he cries, "Back, back! stain not the precincts of God's house with blood! stand back!" and the guards at once respect the emblem and stand back, while the poor fugitive hides himself behind the robes of the priest. It is even so with Christ. The guilty sinner flies to the cross—flies straight away to Jesus, and though Justice pursues him, Christ lifts up his wounded hands and cries to Justice, "Stand back! stand back! I shelter this sinner; in the secret place of my tabernacle do I hide him; I will not suffer him to perish, for he puts his trust in me." Sinner, fly to Christ! But thou sayest, "I am too vile." The viler thou art, the more wilt thou honor him by believing that he is able to make thee clean. "But I am too great a sinner." Then the more honor shall be given to him that thou art able to confide in him, great sinner though thou art. If you have a little sickness, and you tell your physician— "Sir! I am quite confident in your skill to heal," there is no great compliment, but if you are sore sick with a complication of diseases, and you say—"Sir! I seek no better skill, I will ask no more excellent advice, I trust alone in you," what an honor have you conferred on him, that you could trust your life in his hands when it was in extreme danger. Do the like with Christ; put your soul in his care, dare it, venture it; cast thyself simply on him; let nothing but faith be in thy soul; believe him, and thou shalt never be mistaken in thy trust.

**Songs of Worship – *Before the Throne of God Above/Rock of Ages***

**Message** – *“The Family Mandate”*

*Scripture Reference: Genesis 1:28*

**Time of Prayer**

**Song of Worship** – *O Church Arise*

**Benediction**