

Sunday, May 26, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Zephaniah 3:17; Psalm 145:1-7 (Source: Sojourn Church)*

Hear the word of the Lord from Zephaniah 3:17...

The LORD your God is with you. He is a hero who saves you. He happily rejoices over you, renews you with his love, and celebrates over you with shouts of joy.

We are a people who love to celebrate. We celebrate birthdays, job promotions, and holidays just to name a few. However, we often don't see our corporate worship as celebrations, but that's what they are. We sing, we hear God's word, and we recall the greatest event of history. We remember the great love shown in Jesus Christ that has changed our lives and given us hope for the days ahead. Just as God celebrates over us with shouts of joy, we should celebrate our Lord and Savior. Today, let's celebrate the glory of God together as He calls us to worship:

We will exalt you, our God and King, and praise your name forever and ever.

We will praise you every day; yes, we will praise you forever.

Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power.

We will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles.

Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;

We will proclaim your greatness.

Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

People of God, let us worship our great and glorious King!

Song of Praise – *Shout to the North and the South*

How Majestic Is Your Name – *Psalm 8*

Hear God's word from Psalm, Chapter 8:

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Song of Worship – *God of Wonders*

Did Christ Die For Me? – *Charles Spurgeon*

We surely serve a God of wonders, one who is Holy and is Lord over all. One of the many wonders of God is that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. It is difficult for us to imagine that we are loved so much that God would send His one and only perfect Son to die for our sins. You may ask, “Did Christ die for me?” Christ died and invites those into His Kingdom who know they are guilty, vile, and lost, and are in need of a Savior.

Remember that striking saying of Martin Luther. Luther says, Satan once came to him and said,

"Martin Luther, you are lost, for you are a sinner." Said I to him, "Satan, I thank you for saying I am a sinner, for inasmuch as you say I am a sinner, I answer you this—Christ died for sinners; and if Martin Luther is a sinner, Christ died for him."

Now, can you lay hold on that, my hearer? It is not on my authority, but on God's authority.

Let's take a few moments to pause and silently pray to God asking Him to forgive you of your sins and also to express gratitude for sending His Son that while we were still sinners, He would die for us.

- *Silent Prayer* -

Let us continue to rejoice; for even if you are the chief of sinners you shall be saved, if you believe!

Songs of Worship – *Here Is Love/ We Fall Down*

Offering - *“Better to confess Christ 1,000 times now and be despised by men, than be disowned by Christ before God on the day of judgment.”* J.C. Ryle

Mamma, Kiss Me - J.R. Miller (1840-1912)

This is the word of God: 1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Hear the words of J.R. Miller, a Presbyterian pastor who lived from 1840-1912...

That was a touching story which Mr. Gladstone gave in Parliament, when announcing *the death of the Princess Alice*. Her little boy was ill with diphtheria, and the mother had been cautioned not to inhale the poisoned breath. The child was tossing in the delirium of fever. The Princess stood beside him and laid her hand on his brow to caress him. The touch cooled the fevered brain, and brought back the wandering soul from its wild delirium. He nestled a moment in his mother's lap; then, throwing his arms around her neck, he whispered, "Mamma, kiss me." *Mother-love* was stronger than all the injunctions of physicians — and she pressed her lips to the child's. The result was her death.

You say that she was foolish. Yet where is the mother who would not have done the same? Love stops at no peril, at no sacrifice. There was great peril in Christ's own mission to this world. In His marvelous love for us, *He put his lips to the poison of our sin* — and died in our place!

"Christ loved the church, and gave Himself up for her!" Ephesians 5:25

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep!" John 10:11

Songs of Worship – *My Saviors Love/O How I Love Jesus*

Message – *"Jesus, For or Against"*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 12:22-32

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *I Need Thee Every Hour*

Benediction