

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – 2 Peter 1:3-4 (Source: *The Worship Sourcebook*)

People of God, worship the living God today! Remember that out of nothing God created the heavens and earth. Remember that God raised Jesus from the powerlessness of death to the power of his right hand. Remember that not even the gates of hell can stand against God's purposes.

Behold our God, who reigns now and forever.

Hear the powerful words of the Lord, 2 Peter 1:3-4:

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Praise God for the promises He has given us through His word! Let's join together in singing praises to the creator of these promises, our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!

Song of Praise – *Sanding on the Promises*

May the Lord Give You Such Faith – *Charles Spurgeon; 1 John 5:13*

What a blessed thing it would be to be completely resting in our Savior and securely standing on His promises. If we would truly believe the promise of God, and rest in the Lord's certain fulfillment of it, we might be as happy as the angels. Oh for a faith that can sing through the night and through the winter! Faith that can live on a promise is the faith of God's elect. You will never enjoy the blessed assurance of Christ until you believe without wavering. May the Lord give you such faith.

Speak with me the promising words from 1 John 5:13:

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Song of Worship – *Blessed Assurance*

Prayer of Confession – *Psalm 66:16, 18-20; Isaiah 1:18*

The psalmist testifies: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me. In the strength of this assurance, let us silently confess our sins to God.

Let's Pray.

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Song of Worship – *Whiter Than Snow*

Assurance of Pardon - (Ezekiel 36:25-26)

Hear the good news that we are forgiven:

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Father, as you create in me a new heart, may you mold me into a person that would be pleasing unto You. From this moment, I turn my life over to the Potter's hands. Amen.

Song of Worship – *The Potter's Hand*

Offering - *"Anyone who cannot rest from work is a slave – to a need for success, to a materialistic culture, to exploitative employers, to parental expectations, or to all of the above. These slave masters will abuse you if you are not disciplined in the practice of Sabbath rest. Sabbath is a declaration of freedom."* Timothy Keller

In His Shadow - *Joni Eareckson Tada/E.M. Bounds*

In 1967 Joni Eareckson Tada was injured in a diving accident at 17 years old, leaving her in a quadriplegic state with minimal use of her hands. After two years of rehabilitation, Joni re-entered the community with new skills and a fresh determination to help others in similar situations. Listen as Joni describes the words of the 1800's hymn, *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*:

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.*

I love singing this hymn because it reminds me that the safest, most secure, most peaceful, wonderful place you could ever rest your soul, is at the foot of the cross. When you are there resting beneath its shadow, you are quick to confess sin, you are ready to acknowledge weakness, you are confident that the devil can't reach you, and you are assured of the protection and provision of God.

I thought about this the other day when I read this heartwarming story written by E. M. Bounds. He says, "I'm a huntsman and I rose early one morning and heard the barking of a number of dogs chasing deer. Looking at a large open field I saw a young fawn making its way across the field. It leaped over the rails of an enclosed place and crouched within ten feet of where I stood. A moment later, two of the hounds came over the rails and the fawn ran in my direction and pushed its head between my legs. I lifted the little thing to my breast and, swinging round and round, fought off the dogs. Just then I felt that all the dogs in the West could not and would not capture that fawn after its weakness had appealed to my strength. So it is when human helplessness appeals to Almighty God."

I hope you see yourself in this story like I do. Like you, I'm just like that fawn. I'm running, I am racing to Jesus - oh, please help me. The world, the flesh and the devil are after me and I so want God to lift me to His breast and protect me. And, oh, what a wonderful assurance to know that when I am in the arms of Christ, when I am safe in the shadow of His cross, all the hoards of the adversary cannot touch me, or reach me or capture me... all because in my weakness I am so very happy to appeal to God's strength. Join me today, would you, at the foot of the cross, for it's beneath the cross of Jesus - in His shadow - that we find all the protection, all the safety, all the peace, all the rest and all provision you need for your soul.

Songs of Worship – *Beneath the Cross of Jesus/I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

Message – *“Let Us Enter Into His Sabbath Rest”*

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 4:1-13

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *This the Power of the Cross*

The Lord's Supper

Prayer for the Bread (*Source: Douglas Skinner*)

God our Rock, it is in the shadow of Christ's cross that we make our home. It is here that we find the rest and shade that we need from the glare of the searching sun at noonday. Exposed, we need to be shielded; weary, we need to be relieved. And these things we find beneath the cross of Jesus. Today as we break the bread in remembrance of and thanksgiving for what you did for us in Jesus Christ on Calvary, teach us how to abide always in you and to find our glory in the cross. Feed us by this bread and sustain us by your Spirit, we pray. Amen

Partaking of the Bread - *Luke 22:19*

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Prayer for the Cup (*Source: Douglas Skinner*)

We bless and share this cup, Abiding God, so that our eyes can focus more clearly on the very dying form of one who suffered on the cross for us. But it's more than a history lesson that we need here today. And so touch our hearts in their depths by this powerful remembrance of Christ's death on Calvary's cross. By your Spirit, in this moment of communion, break our hearts with the knowledge of our unworthiness, and then startle us again with the wonder of your redeeming love so that beneath Christ's cross we would forever take our stand. Amen.

Partaking of the Cup - Luke 22:20

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Proclamation – 1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Benediction