

Sunday, June 16, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 40:1-8*

Loving God, we have gathered to meet you. We have come to listen to you, to seek you, to worship you. We come before you as sinful people yet you are ever ready to lift us out of sin and despair. Let us find encouragement from the words of King David, found in Psalm 40, verses 1-8...

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD. Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare. Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said,

"Here I am, I have come-- it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

Let us join our voices to praise the spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and death.

We, whom he has redeemed, will sing praises and shout for joy this hour; because in Christ the Lamb we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins in accordance with the riches of his grace.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. Let us praise him by saying:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb we give worship this hour and forever and ever. Amen.

Song of Praise – *For All You've Done*

I Will Extol the Lord – *Psalm 34:1-3*

Hear the word of the Lord, Psalm 34:1-3

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

Song of Worship – We Will Glorify

Confession of Sin – Psalm 116:1-2

The psalmist declares in Psalm 116:1-2:

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

We gather as a community in need of a Savior. We offer our honest confession, in faith and trust in our covenant God, knowing that God hears our voice. Let's spend the next few moments confessing our sins to the Living God. Let's pray.

Song of Worship – You Are My King

After Chorus: Speak with me the truth found in Romans 8:37-39...

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Assurance of Salvation – Ephesians 2:4-7

Let us rejoice in these words of assurance found in Ephesians 2:4-7...

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through 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 ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Song of Worship – My Savior's Love

Offering - "Not until we take God seriously will we ever take sin seriously." R.C. Sproul

Come Holy Spirit - A Puritan Prayer (Other Sources: Dr. Joel Bekee)

Hear the words of the great eighteenth-century revivalist, George Whitefield:

The Puritans [were] burning and shining lights. When cast out by the black Bartholomew Act, and driven from their respective charges to preach in barns and fields, in the highways and hedges, they in a special manner wrote and preached as men having authority. Though dead, by their writings they yet speak: a peculiar unction attends them to this very hour.

Whitefield went on to predict that Puritan writings would continue to be resurrected until the end of time due to their scriptural spirituality. Today, we are living in such a time. Interest in Puritan books has seldom been more intense. In the last fifty years, 150 Puritan authors and nearly 700 Puritan titles have been brought back into print.

This surge in Puritan interest is largely due in part to the strength of their character and the fact that their life lay completely grounded in prayer and meditation. The prayer life of a Puritan was regarded as of first importance. The prayers were powerful, as they had a high view of God and a realistic view of sinful humanity. Fortunately for us, on occasion, these Puritan prayers and meditations were written down. These prayers are very challenging and can greatly encourage you during good and bad times. Our hope is that you will see the depth and spiritual dedication in their words.

Listen to the powerful words of one such prayer, Come Holy Spirit:

O Holy Spirit, as the sun is full of light, the ocean full of water, and Heaven full of glory, so may our hearts be filled with you! Vain are all divine purposes of love and the redemption wrought by Jesus except thou work within, regenerating by thy power, giving us eyes to see Jesus, showing us the realities of the unseen world.

Give us yourself without measure, like an endless fountain of inexhaustible riches. We regret our coldness, our poverty, our emptiness, our imperfect vision, our leisurely service, our prayerless prayers, and praiseless praises. Suffer us not to grieve or resist you.

Come as power, to expel every rebel lust nestled in our hearts and reign supreme; Come as teacher, leading us into all truth, filling us with all understanding; Come as love, that we may adore the Father, and love him as our all; Come as joy, to dwell in us, move in us, animate us; Come as light, illuminating the Scripture, and fashion us according to your laws; Come as sanctifier, may our bodies, souls and spirits be wholly and unreservedly yours; Come as helper, with strength to bless and keep us... to direct our every step; Come as beautifier, bringing order out of confusion, loveliness out of chaos.

Magnify to us your glory by being magnified in us, and make us redolent with your fragrance.

Songs of Worship – Holy Spirit/Speak, O Lord

After 2nd verse of Holy Spirit: (The prayer known as the Lorica of St. Patrick)

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,

Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left,

Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,

Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,

Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,

Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,

Through belief in the Threeness, through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation.

Message – *“The Parable of the Sower”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 13:1-23

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Sing Allelu*

Benediction