

Sunday, July 21, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 96:1-2, 6-10*

Worship is something we offer to God every day of our lives in everything that we do. In our weekly call to worship we are called to lay aside our personal agendas, to realize where we are and what we are to be doing, to focus our attention on the unseen God, and to yield to him our full awareness and attention. As we prepare to enter this sacred time of worship, let's take the next few moments and silently pray to God, asking Him to clear our minds so that the only thoughts we have relate to worshipping the true and living God. Let's pray.

Hear the word of the Lord from Psalm 96...

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Honor and majesty surround him; strength and beauty fill his sanctuary.

O nations of the world, recognize the Lord; recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong. Give to the Lord the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor. Let all the earth tremble before him. Tell all the nations, "The Lord reigns!" Come, let us worship the King!

Song of Praise – *O Worship The King*

Worthy is the Lamb

Let us continue to join our voices in praising 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 Worship – *Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

Confession of Sin – *1 John 1:8-9*

God's Word assures us in 1 John 1:8-9:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In humility and faith let us silently spend the next few moments confessing our sins to God. Let's pray.

Assurance of Salvation – *John 3:16-17*

Join me in speaking this passage of truth and assurance found in John, Chapter 3, verses 16 & 17...

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Songs of Worship – *How Deep the Father's Love For Us/Here Is Love*

Offering - *“O Lord God Almighty...I give Thee thanks that Thou hast counted me, worthy of this day and this hour, that I should have a part in the number of Thy martyrs.”*– Prayer of Polycarp (69-155 A.d.)

I Will Still Be Glad and Rejoice – *Habakkuk 3:17-18*

Hear the word of the Lord from Habakkuk 3:17 -18

Figs might not grow on the fig trees, and grapes might not grow on the vines. Olives might not grow on the olive trees, and food might not grow in the fields. There might not be any sheep in the pens or cattle in the barns. But I will still be glad in the LORD and rejoice in God my Savior.

Life in our world can be difficult. At some point, most of us have wondered, Where is God in my trouble? And we may have thought, It seems like injustice is winning and God is silent. We have a choice as to how we respond to our troubles. The prophet Habakkuk had an attitude worth following: He made the choice to rejoice.

Habakkuk saw the rapid increase in Judah's moral and spiritual failings, and this disturbed him deeply. But God's response troubled him even more. God would use the wicked nation of Babylon to punish Judah. Habakkuk did not fully understand this, but he could rejoice because he had learned to rely on the wisdom, justice, and sovereignty of God. He concluded his book with a wonderful affirmation: “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.” Though it was not clear how Judah would survive, Habakkuk had learned to trust God amid injustice, suffering, and loss. He would live by his faith in God alone. With this kind of faith came joy in God, despite the circumstances surrounding him.

We too can rejoice in our trials, have surefooted confidence in God, and live on the heights of His sovereignty.

Be this the purpose of my soul My solemn, my determined choice:
To yield to God's supreme control, And in my every trial rejoice.

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. —Habakkuk 3:18

Songs of Worship – *I Will Praise Him Still/It Is Well With My Soul*

Message – *“The Beheading of John the Baptist”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:1-12

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *It Is Not Death To Die*

Benediction