

Sunday, July 28, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 95:6; Ephesians 1* (Source: Mike Harland & Stan Moser)

Hear the words of the Lord, found in Psalm 95:6...

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.”

God deeply desires a personal relationship with each one of us, and He is at work around us at all times. Just as God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, so He desires to fellowship and communicate with each of us. God has promised in Psalm 22:3 to inhabit the praises of His people, and God is always true to His promises. Our worship provides a place of meeting with God - a place for us to encounter His very presence and embrace His invitation to join Him as He works.

As we begin to focus our time and attention on the Lord in worship, proclaim His place of honor in our lives, and thank and praise Him for His eternal promises, we can expect God to intervene in our circumstances. God has promised to inhabit our worship, and He will. And when the King is present, all things are possible!

Let's take a few moments in silent prayer to prepare our heart, soul, and mind, so that this morning, we may give God the praise and worship He is so deserving of. Let's pray.

Please stand with me as we respond to God's invitation to worship with words of praise from Ephesians, Chapter 1.

All glorious God, we give you thanks: in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You chose us, before the world was made, to be your holy people, without fault in your sight. You adopted us as your children in Christ. You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins. You have made known to us your secret purpose, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance. All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love.

Song of Praise – *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

O God, How Great You Are

Hear these words that describe our amazing God...

With an outstretched arm you have delivered us O Lord; with tenderness and compassion, you have fed us; When I consider the sun and moon and the stars in their places, I fall to silence in awe of you, my God! Your love is amazing! Your wonderful works before me, fill me with joy! My delight is in you! O Lord my God, in power and great majesty you rule the heavens above and the highest heavens! All the angels and saints surround you by day and by night, singing praises to your glory on high!

O Lord God, your glory shall reign forever! O God, how great you are!

Song of Worship – *How Great Is Our God*

Confession of Sin

Great and Holy Lord,

You have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy. We recognize that our sin is repulsive to you. Our hearts are corrupt. Our thoughts are shameful. We are depraved to our very core.

Truly we don't deserve your mercy, but deserve your wrath.

Take us back to Calvary, that we may see the violence of your grace. Show us the nails that were driven into the hands and feet of Jesus. Show us the water and blood that flowed from his spear pierced side.

Father, help us gaze on the glorious love shown by Jesus Christ in taking the punishment for us.

May we see the mercy shown to us by Christ dying in our place. May we see the abundant life that flows out of the wounds of our Savior.

Show us the cross of Jesus, where we find hope and peace with God. Amen

For the next few moments, let's spend time in silent prayer confessing our sins to our Lord and Savior, and thanking Him for taking on our sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. Let's pray.

Song of Worship – *Once Again*

Assurance of Salvation – *Ephesians 2:4-7*

Hear the good news of the gospel, 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.

In Christ, by God's grace, we are saved. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Song of Worship – *My Savior's Love*

Offering - *"The Cross is a blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us."* John Stott

The Savior is Able – *Matthew 14:20-21 (Source: Ligon Duncan)*

Hear the word of God, found in Matthew 14, verses 20-21...

“They took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children”

In this passage we learn that Christ is able to meet all the soul needs of people. In feeding the multitudes, Christ is showing his disciples that He alone is able to supply all our needs, material and spiritual. Jesus Himself is the source of life. He is the one who has what we need. I don't have what you need. I don't have the answer in me. But He does. All I can give you is what He gives into my hand. But He is the source, He is the answer.

Christ is more than sufficient for every need we have. The only thing standing between us and his filling of that need is our willingness to admit we have a need, but we are prideful and we don't want to admit that we are poor and in need of compassion. We don't want to admit that we are sinners who have offended Him and offended one another. And Christ reaches out and says, “I can fill every need.”

What's stopping you? What's the obstacle in your heart today to receiving the provision that Christ says is there for you? Is it your pride? Is it the consequences of confessing the sin which is between you and God, perhaps you and others? I pray this day that God would break down the walls of any hard heart in the congregation and would draw us to Christ who feeds us eternally. And if you're a believer and you're weak and you're doubting, I pray that you'd see again in this historical account the extravagant way in which the Savior is able to provide for every need you have. He can fill it and leave 12 baskets full leftover. Christ is able!

Songs of Worship – *Christ Is Able/Show Us Christ*

Message – *“The Feeding of the Five Thousand”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:13-21

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Give Me Jesus*

Benediction