

# Sunday, September 8, 2013

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – *Psalm 66:1-5, 8*

Please stand with me and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting! Hear these words of praise to the Lord found in Psalm 66, Verses 1-5 & 8:

Everything on earth, shout with joy to God! Sing about his glory! Make his praise glorious! Say to God,

*“Your works are amazing! Because your power is great, your enemies fall before you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you. They sing praises to your name.”*

Come and see what God has done, the amazing things he has done. You people, praise our God; loudly sing his praise.

Join me in sharing the news of our great God!

**Song of Praise** – *For the Beauty of the Earth*

**I will Bless the Lord at all Times** – *Psalm 34:1-3*

Let's speak the word of God found in Psalm 34:1-3

*I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us praise his name together.*

**Song of Worship** – *I Will Praise Him Still*

**Confession of Sin & Prayer** - *1 John 1:8-9*

When we gather to praise God, we are painfully reminded that we are people who have preferred our wills to his. In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways.

God's Word assures us in 1 John, Chapter 1, Verses 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.*

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake. In humility and faith let us spend the next few moments in silent prayer, confessing our sin to God. Let's pray.

**Assurance of Salvation** – *Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1*

Hear the promise of Salvation in Christ and be at peace:

*God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Songs of Worship** – *Here Is Love/You Are My King/Amazing Grace*

**Offering** “A world of nice people, content in their own niceness, looking no further, turned away from God, would be just as desperately in need of salvation as a miserable world – and might be even more difficult to save.” C.S. Lewis

**Stand at the Foot of the Cross** – *Philippians 2:1-8 (Source: Charles H. Spurgeon)*

Hear God’s Word from Philippians 2:1-8

*Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

*Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

Jesus is the great teacher of lowliness of heart. We need daily to learn of Him. See the Master taking a towel and washing His disciples’ feet! Follower of Christ, will you not humble yourself? See Him as the Servant of servants, and surely you will not be proud! Is not this sentence the overview of His biography, “He humbled Himself?” Was He not on earth always stripping off first one robe of honor and then another, till, naked, He was fastened to the cross, and there did He not empty out His inmost self, pouring out His life-blood, giving up for all of us, till they laid Him penniless in a borrowed grave? How low was our dear Redeemer brought! How then can we be proud?

Stand at the foot of the cross, and count the purple drops by which you have been cleansed; see the thorn-crown; mark His scourged shoulders, still gushing with encrimsoned rills; see hands and feet given up to the rough iron, and His whole self to mockery and scorn; see the bitterness, and the pangs, and the throes of inward grief, showing themselves in His outward frame; hear the thrilling shriek, “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” And if you do not lie prostrate on the ground before that cross, you have never seen it: if you are not humbled in the presence of Jesus, you do not know Him.

You were so lost that nothing could save you but the sacrifice of God’s only begotten. Think of that, and as Jesus stooped for you, bow yourself in lowliness at His feet. A sense of Christ’s amazing love to us has a greater tendency to humble us than even a consciousness of our own guilt. May the Lord bring us in contemplation to Calvary, then our position will no longer be that of the pompous man of pride, but we shall take the humble place of one who loves much because much has been forgiven him. Pride cannot live beneath the cross. Let us sit there and learn our lesson, and then rise and carry it into practice.

**Songs of Worship** – *Beneath the Cross of Jesus/Near the Cross*

**Message** – *“Spiritual Blindness”*

*Scripture Reference: Matthew 16:1-12*

**Time of Prayer**

**Song of Worship** – *Christ Is Able*

**Benediction**