

Sunday, January 12, 2014

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 95:1-3 (Source: C.H. Spurgeon)*

Hear the call to worship found in Psalm 95, Verses 1-3:

“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.”

We will be glad and rejoice in thee. We will not open the gates of the year to the mournful notes of the instrument, but to the sweet strains of the harp of joy, and the high sounding cymbals of gladness.

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise unto the rock of our salvation."

What heavens are laid up in Jesus! What rivers of infinite bliss have their source and every drop of their fulness in him! Since, O sweet Lord Jesus, thou art the present portion of thy people, favor us this year with such a sense of thy preciousness, that from its first to its last day we may be glad and rejoice in thee.

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord!"

Songs of Worship – *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty/He Is Exalted*

Confession of Sin & Prayer – *Psalm 6 (Source: Matthew Henry)*

Hear the word of God from Psalm, Chapter 6:

O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD—how long? Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love. For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise? I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes. Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping. The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer.

These verses speak the language of a heart truly humbled, of a broken and contrite spirit under great afflictions, sent to awaken conscience and mortify corruption. Every page of Scripture proclaims the fact that salvation is only of the Lord. Man is a sinner and his case can only be reached by mercy.

Having made his request known to God, the psalmist is confident that his sorrow will be turned into joy. By the workings of God's grace upon his heart, he knew his prayer was accepted, and did not doubt but it would, in due time, be answered. His prayers will be accepted, coming up out of the hands of Christ the Mediator. A believer, through the blood and righteousness of Christ, can go to God as a righteous God, and plead with him for pardon and cleansing, who is just and faithful to grant both.

Let us, as believers, take the next few moments to plead for our own pardon and cleansing before our Mediator, Jesus Christ. Only through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ will we find true forgiveness of sin. Let's pray.

The God of Peace – (Source: C.H. Spurgeon)

At this hour we rest in the promises of our faithful God, knowing that His words are full of truth and power. The person of Jesus is the quiet resting-place of His people, and when we draw near to Him in the breaking of the bread, in the hearing of the word, the searching of the Scriptures, prayer, or praise, we find any form of approach to Him to be the return of peace to our spirits. The God of Peace gives perfect peace to those whose hearts are stayed upon him.

Songs of Praise – *In the Presence/Rock of Ages*

Offering - "We must fight worldliness because it dulls our affections for Christ and distracts our attention from Christ. Worldliness is so serious because Christ is so glorious." C.J. Mahaney

Lord, How Can We Know the Way? – John 14:5-6/1 Peter 2:21 (Source: J.R. Miller, *Evening Thoughts* 1907)

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way" John 14:5-6

This is the start of a new year. We are setting out on a *journey* of which we can have no knowledge in advance. The *road* is one on which we have never gone down. We know not what any day will have for us. . .

what our *duties* will be,
what *burdens* shall be laid upon us,
what *sorrows* we shall have to endure,
what *battles* we shall have to fight.

We cannot see one step before us! *How can we know the way?* As we sit in the quiet and ask the question, we hear an answer which is full of comfort. Jesus says to us, "*I am the way!*"

All we shall have to do, therefore, will be to *follow* Jesus. He has made a *way* through this dark world for us. He has gone over all the journey and opened a road for us at great cost. He went over the way Himself--*we shall find His shoe-prints at every step.*

He has a *definite* way for each one of us. Every mile of the journey He has *chosen*--and every place where I pitch my tent He has *selected* for me!

"Leaving you an example, so that *you should follow in His steps!*" 1 Peter 2:21

Songs of Worship – *Footsteps of Jesus/Be Thou My Vision*

Message – "*The Cleansing of the Temple*"

Scripture Reference: Matthew 21:12-17

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Observance of the Lord's Supper

Prayer for the Bread

Passing of the Bread

Partaking of the Bread – *Luke 22:19*

Prayer for the Cup

Passing of the Cup

Partaking of the Cup – *Luke 22:20*

Proclaiming the Lord's Death – *1 Corinthians 11:26*

Benediction