

First Sabbath Worship

May 5, 2007

Welcome and Announcements

Norman Moll

Preparing to Hear the Word

Preparation

“Lord of Creation” (#320)

Albert Travis

Choral Call to Worship

“Ev’ry Flower that Grows”

Dale Wood

* Hymn of Praise

“Let All Things Now Living”

No. 560

Call to Confession

Leaders: When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope.
With less of you there is more of God and His rule.

You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you.
Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less.
That's the moment you find yourselves elated owners of everything that can't be bought.

You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God.
He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

You're blessed when you care.
At the moment of being “care-full,” you find yourselves cared for.

You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right.
Then you can see God in the outside world.

You're blessed when you can show people how to co-operate instead of compete or fight.
That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution.
The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit Me.

What it means is that truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! All heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

(Matthew 5:1-12, *The Message//Remix*)

Confession

**All Lord your message shakes us like an earthquake!
 You wake us up from our doldrums and daydreams!
 We've survived – in some cases drifted through life -- for another week
 Here we are in church on your Day of Rest.**

L But we need to
 Wake up – not sleep!
 Rise up – not recline!
 Speak up for truth – not be silent!
 Use the talents you have given us – not keep them buried!
 Listen for your call – and respond, now!

All Lord, you are waiting for me to invite you to be the Master of my life. I offer now my personal prayer of confession and commitment.

Silence for personal reflection and prayer

L “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt—seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. . . .
 Here’s another way to put it. You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? No, I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, [up] on a light stand—shine!
 (Matt. 5:13-15 *The Message//Remix*)

*** All “Rise Up, O Church of God!” No. 615**

Hearing the Word of God

Children’s Story “What Do You Have There?” Norman Moll

Anthem “I Trust in Thee, Lord Jesus” *Giovanni Bononcini*
 I trust in Thee, Lord Jesus; my heart is ever faithful;
 Thy love has brought me peace.
 Oh, strengthen us in goodness;
 With Thy firm hand please guide us to know and do Thy will.

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 11:10-12; Matthew 22:1-14 Femke Aerts and Amy Nadane

Sermon “God’s Special People – A Remnant Throughout Time” Harmen Aerts

Our Response

*** Hymn of Response “O Zion Haste” No. 365**

Family Prayer Norman Moll
 Choral response “Our Father in Heaven” *Keith Landis*

Giving of Tithes and Offerings Church Budget
 Offertory “Meditation” *Guiseppe Tartini*
 Prayer of Dedication Norman Moll

Responsive Scripture (Rev. 16:15; 3:18; 19:6-9; 22:7; 22:14; 1:3; 22:20-21 adapted *The Message//Remix*)

L “Keep watch! I come unannounced, like a thief. You’re blessed if, awake and dressed, you’re ready for me. Too bad if you’re found running through the streets, naked and ashamed.” That’s why I counseled you to “buy from me . . . white raiment.”

Then I heard the sound of massed choirs, the sound of a mighty cataract, the sound of strong thunder:

All Hallelujah!
The Master reigns,
Our God, the Sovereign-Strong!
Let us celebrate, let us rejoice,
Let us give him the glory!

L The Marriage of the Lamb has come.
His Wife has made herself ready.
She was given a bridal gown
of bright and shining linen.
The linen is the righteousness of the saints.

The Angel said to me, "Write this, 'Blessed are those invited to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.' He added, 'These are the true words of God.'"

Then Christ spoke:

All "Behold I am coming soon! Yes, I'm on my way! Blessed be the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

How blessed are those who wash their robes! The Tree of Life is theirs for good, and they'll walk through the gates to the City. . .

L Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophesy, and blessed are those who hear it, and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is short.

He who testifies to all these things says it again. "I'm on my way! I'll be there soon!"

All Yes! Come, Master Jesus!

The grace of the Master, Jesus, be with all of you.

All Oh, Yes! Amen!

*** Hymn "We Have This Hope" No. 214**

Benediction Harmen Aerts

Choral Blessing "We Rise"
We rise to translate our praise into deed;
Prepared to go out we follow God's lead.
From Sabbath to Sabbath the challenge remains:
When worship is over the service begins.

Postlude "Christ for the World We Sing" (#370) *Albert Travis*

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Worship Service Leaders

Elder Norman Moll
Readers Femke Aerts, Amy Nadane
Musicians Faith Gray, Margaret Lott, Kaitlyn Mercy, Susan Mercy, Dorothy Moll, Chris Rickel