

First Sabbath Worship

September 1, 2007

Welcome and Announcements

Norman Moll

If you are a visitor, we wish you a special welcome. You are invited to enter into our worship completely. Please to stay after worship for dinner with us in the Activity Center. "H" indicates hymns found in the Church Hymnal. "C" indicates hymns found in Celebrate. May God's Spirit touch and renew your life today.

ENTER TO WORSHIP

PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

Preparation

"Star of Our Hope" (H-174 and see also H-226)

Healy Willan

Call to Worship

Leader: The Holy One bends low at home with the humble, taking up residence in the contrite heart and forming all people in God's image. Come, let us worship. Let us offer thanksgiving and praise to God.

People: **We come before you, O God, and wait for the kindling flame of your Holy Spirit, calling us into fuller and richer lives.**

L: You have blessed us by the night's rest and by the morning's light.

P: **Open us to your claim on us. Show us Your way. Let us live in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

* Hymn of Praise

"Name of All Majesty"

C-51

CALL TO CONFESSION:

L: Teach me, O God, so to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth the fruits of holiness rather than the fruits of sin.

P: **Let me use disappointment as material for patience.
Let me use success as material for thankfulness.
Let me use trouble as material for perseverance.
Let me use danger as material for courage.
Let me use reproach as material for long suffering.
Let me use praise as material for humility.
Let me use pleasures as material for temperance.
Let me use pain as material for endurance.**

SILENCE for personal reflection and confession

ASSURANCE (Romans 11:33-36, NIV)

L: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?
Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?'
For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

Congregational Response

"Glory Be to the Father"

H-660

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Story

"A Trip to the Edge of the Universe"

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Responsive Scripture

Abilene and Walter Smith

Revelation 13:11 -- 14:14 (Adapted and selected from *The Message*)

I saw another Beast rising out of the ground. It had two horns like a lamb but sounded like a dragon when it spoke. It was a puppet to the first Beast, made earth and everyone in it worship the first Beast, which had been healed of its deathblow.

The second Beast worked magical signs, dazzling people by making fire come down from Heaven. It used the magic it got from the Beast to dupe earth-dwellers, getting them to make an image of the Beast that received the deathblow and lived. It was able to animate the image of the Beast so that it talked, and then arrange that anyone not worshipping the Beast would be killed. It forced all people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to have a mark on the right hand or forehead. Without the mark of the name of the Beast or the number of its name, it was impossible to buy or sell anything.

Solve a riddle. Put your heads together and figure out the meaning of the number of the Beast.
It's a human number: 666.

I saw--it took my breath away!--the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, 144,000 standing there with him, his Name and the Name of his Father inscribed on their foreheads. And I heard a voice out of Heaven, the sound like a cataract, like the crash of thunder.

And then I heard music, harp music, and the harpists singing a new song before the Throne and the Four Creatures and the Elders. Only the 144,000 could learn to sing the song. They were bought from earth, lived without compromise, virgin-fresh before God. Wherever the Lamb went, they followed. They were bought from humankind, firstfruits of the harvest for God and the Lamb. Not a false word in their mouths. A perfect offering.

I saw another Angel soaring in Middle-Heaven. He had an Eternal Message -- the Gospel -- to preach to all who were still on earth, every nation, and tribe, every tongue and people. He preached in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory! His hour of judgment has come! Worship the Maker of Heaven and earth, salt sea and fresh water!"

A second Angel followed, calling out, "Ruined, ruined. Great Babylon ruined! She made all nations drink of the wine of her whoring!"

A third Angel followed shouting warning, "If anyone worships the Beast and its image and takes the mark on forehead or hand, that person will drink the wine of God's wrath, prepared unmixed in His chalice of anger, and suffer torment from fire and brimstone in the presence of Holy Angels, in the presence of the Lamb."

Meanwhile, the saints stand passionately patient, keeping God's commands, staying faithful to Jesus.

I heard a voice out of Heaven saying, "Write this: `Blessed are those who die in the Master from now on, how blessed to die that way!'"

"Yes," says the Spirit, "and blessed rest from their hard, hard work. None of what they've done is wasted, God blesses them for it all in the end."

Sermon

An Exploration of Worship

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OUR RESPONSE

* Hymn of Response

“Face To Face”

H-206

Family Prayers

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Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

“When I Can Read My Title Clear” (#464)

Combined Budget

Anna Laura Page

* Hymn

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks”

C-197

Admonition – adapted from 1 Chronicles 16:23-36 *The Message*

L: Sing to God, everyone and everything!
Get out His salvation news everyday!
Publish His glory among the godless nations;
His wonders to all races and religions.

**P: And why? Because God is great—well worth praising!
No god or goddess come close in honor.
All the popular gods are stuff and nonsense,
but God made the cosmos!
Splendor and majesty flow out of Him,
strength and joy fill His place.**

L: Shout Bravo! To God, families of the peoples,
In awe of the Glory, in awe of the Strength: Bravo!

P: Shout Bravo! to His famous Name,

L: Lift high an offering and enter His presence!
Stand resplendent in His robes of holiness!
God is serious business, take Him seriously,
He’s put the earth in place and it’s not moving.

**P: So let Heaven rejoice, let Earth be jubilant,
and pass the word among the nations, “God reigns!”**

L: Let Ocean, all teeming with life, bellow,
Let Field and all its creatures shake the rafters,

**P: Then the trees of the forest will add their applause
to all who are pleased and present before God**

L: He's on His way to set things right!

**P: Give thanks to God—He is good
and His love never quits.**

L: Say, "Save us, Saviour God,
Round us up and get us out of these godless places.
So we can give thanks to your holy Name,
And bask in your life of praise."

**P: Blessed be God, the God of all His people!
from everlasting to everlasting.
Yes! Amen! Praise God!**

Benediction
Postlude

"Voluntary of Praise"

Norman Moll
Flor Peeters

DEPART TO SERVE

Readings adapted from Philip Yancey, John Baillie, Eugene Peterson – *The Message*, and the New International Version of the Bible.