

Sunday, December 7, 2008

Reflections

“Worship in the Bible is the due response of rational creatures to the self revelation of their Creator.” - JI Packer, Concise Theology

Prayer is not a hard requirement- it is the natural duty of a creature to its creator, the simplest homage that human need can pay to divine liberality.
- C. H. Spurgeon

Sunday Worship Service Participants

December 7

Greeter - Maria Gelin

Childcare Workers - Laura Sterrett and Jonathan Claggett

Scripture Reading - Tiffany Brooks

December 14

Greeter - Les Mason

Childcare Workers - Matt Oquist and Linda Mason

Scripture Reading - Allison Wakefield

December 21

Greeter - Laura Sterrett

Childcare Workers - Denise Kingsley and Bill Townsend

Scripture Reading - Les Mason

Service of Praise

Prelude

We invite you to prepare your heart for the worship of our God.

***Call to Worship**

Isaiah 12:4-6 (NIV)

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.

***Hymn of Praise**

Angels, From the Realms of Glory
Number 218 in Trinity Hymnal

***Prayer of Adoration**

**Congregation standing*

Confession of Sin

Almighty God,
you who shaped out of nothing all that is,
forgive us for returning empty-handed.
You who called forth light,
forgive our preference for the dark!
You who sent John to be a voice crying,
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all!
Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship Sourcebook (Reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, © 2004, CRC Publications.)

A Moment of Private Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Colossians 1:18-20 (NIV)

And [Christ] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

* +Hymn of Thanks

Joy Has Dawned

See next page

**Congregation standing*

+Young children may be dismissed at this time.

Call to Commitment

Collection of Our Gifts to God and to His Church

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NIV)

- ¹ Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
- ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
- ³ A voice of one calling:
"In the desert prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness
a highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
- ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
"All men are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

(continued on next page)

- ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
- ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God stands forever."
- ⁹ You who bring good tidings to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
- ¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and his arm rules for him.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
- ¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Prayer of Intercession

Sermon

Before Bethlehem
John 1:3-5 (NASB)

³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

***Hymn of Response**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**Congregation standing*

Service of Communion

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion, also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, it is important that you carefully consider the claims of the gospel and the grace that is offered through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We encourage you to talk with an elder of the church and spend this time now in prayer and meditation on the scriptures in the bulletin.

Scripture Verses for Those Not Communing

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

- Isaiah 53:4-6

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

- John 3:16-18

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

- John 14:6

Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:6-8, 22-23

***Confession of Faith**

Philippians 2:6-11 (NIV)

I believe in Christ Jesus,
Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death -
even death on a cross!
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

***Angels from the Realms of Glory (verse 5)**

Number 218 in Trinity Hymnal

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship! Come and worship!
Worship Christ the newborn King!

***Benediction**

Announcements

(Please be seated)

**Congregation standing*

Announcements*

Christmas Celebration: Next Sunday, December 14, we will be gathering as a church family to celebrate the holiday season. We will meet from 5-7 p.m. at Crossway Christian Church, 503 Main Dunstable Road, Nashua, NH 03062. Please bring your favorite Christmas dessert or snack to share with everyone.

Combined Service: On Sunday, December 28 we will be meeting for worship with Christ the Redeemer in Manchester, NH. The worship service will be at 9:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Manchester, NH in their chapel. The church is located at 536 Union St., Manchester, NH 03104.

Information Meeting: On Sunday, January 4, after the service, we will have an informational meeting regarding officer nominations. Please plan to attend.

There will be a **membership class** starting in January for anyone who wants to become a member of the church or who would like more information about the church. Please see Jason if you're interested.

The Wakefield Family would like thank you for your monetary gift. It means a lot to us and we deeply appreciate it. We are so thankful for our privilege to minister in your midst. -- *Jason, Allison, Tory, Andrew, and Nikki*

Missions trip: The Presbytery is organizing a missions trip to Romania this spring. Please let Jason know if you are interested.

Weekly Schedule:

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Life Together	Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Small Group	Claggett house

**If you have any announcements, please contact the Oquists.
Phone: 603-881-3808, Email: announcements@nashuapca.org*

Kingdom Focused Prayer

Pray for God's name to be honored

- Our worship service would be honoring to him
- Thankful for God's provision of a facility to worship in and to be diligent in our care of it so that people will see Christ in us

Pray for His Kingdom to be extended

- For our friends and neighbors to come to know Christ
- That Nashua be changed to reflect the city of God
- For the fatherless, widows, orphans and homeless to be cared for by believers
- For justice to be established in Nashua in our courts and streets
- Pray for the work of the Mission To North America committee of our Presbytery as we seek to plant more churches in Northern New England.
- For the opportunity to meet and get to know more people of Nashua because the office is located in a downtown professional building.

Pray for His people to be fed and nurtured

- For the Word to be preached faithfully
- That the witness and ministry of our church leadership would be empowered by the Spirit
- That all those who hear would be receptive to the Holy Spirit
- Pray for the elder/deacon training

Pray for His forgiveness to be felt and extended to others

- That we become more aware of our sinfulness
- That we be burdened with the things that burden God
- That we may experience the width, length, height, and depth of God's love for us
- For us to be bold in sharing our faith

Pray for His Bride, the church, to be purified and kept from temptation

- That God would sanctify his church
- That God would guard us from discouragement
- That God would protect us from gossip and complaining
- For God to strengthen us in faith, that we might believe His promises in the gospel, particularly His delight in saving the lost