

Sunday, December 21, 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 21

Greeter - Laura Sterrett

Childcare Workers - Denise Kingsley and Bill Townsend

Scripture Reading - Les Mason

December 28

Service in Manchester

(see announcements for more information)

January 4

Greeter - Janet Surprenant

Childcare Workers - Tiffany Brooks and Maria Gelin

Scripture Reading - Allison Wakefield

Service of Praise

Prelude

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

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 98:1-4

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

People: The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

Leader: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.

***Hymn of Praise**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Number 208 in Trinity Hymnal

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Hymn of Praise**

Joy to the World
Number 195 in Trinity Hymnal

**Congregation standing*

Confession of Sin

O God, in the beginning you spoke,
and creation was born, the object of your loving care.
In the fullness of time you spoke,
and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love.
We wonder at the miracle of creation;
we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation.
Forgive us sinful creatures, feeble in faith,
empty of hope, lacking in love.
Cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today,
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

Luke 2:10-11

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

* +Hymn of Thanks

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Number 203 in Trinity Hymnal

**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

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (NIV)

- ¹ I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.
- ² I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
- ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,
- ⁴ 'I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through all generations.' "
- ¹⁹ Once you spoke in a vision,
to your faithful people you said:
"I have bestowed strength on a warrior;
I have exalted a young man from among the people.
- ²⁰ I have found David my servant;
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.
- ²¹ My hand will sustain him;
surely my arm will strengthen him.
- ²² No enemy will subject him to tribute;
no wicked man will oppress him.
- ²³ I will crush his foes before him
and strike down his adversaries.
- ²⁴ My faithful love will be with him,
and through my name his horn will be exalted.

²⁵ I will set his hand over the sea,
his right hand over the rivers.
²⁶ He will call out to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, the Rock my Savior.'

Prayer of Intercession

Sermon

Welcome Home
John 1:9-13 (NASB)

⁹ There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

***Hymn of Response**

Silent Night! Holy Night!
Number 210 in Trinity Hymnal

**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**

Westminster Confession of Faith (MESV), 8.2

The Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, being truly and eternally God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time had come, take upon himself man's nature, with all its essential properties and common frailties, yet without sin. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary and of her substance. In this way, two whole natures, the divine and the human, perfect and distinct, were inseparably joined together in one person without being changed, mixed, or confused. This person is truly God and truly man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.

***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*

Vacation: The Wakefield family will be out of town from December 26-December 29. If you have to contact Jason, please feel free to contact him on his mobile 603.305.7339.

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@nashuaapca.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

Mercy Ministry Opportunities

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Nashua
883.9355

Supplies

Baby items, diapers, etc.

Upper Room Compassionate Ministries (Katie)

595.2039

Volunteers

For sorting clothes or bagging food for 1 hour or more

Supplies

Clothing, particularly socks (mens, childrens), shampoo, toothpaste, diapers (size 4 &5), outdoor clothing, hats, mittens, etc.

"Only the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ and millions of "mini-churches" (Christian homes) throughout the country can attack the roots of social problems." - Tim Keller, *Ministries of Mercy*