

Sunday, October 19, 2008

Reflections

“Worship is the supremacy of God in the affections of His people.” - John Piper

The prayer life does not consist of perpetual repetition of petitions. The prayer life consists of life that is always upward and onward and Godward. - George Campbell Morgan

Sunday Worship Service Participants

October 19

Greeter - Denise Kingsley

Childcare Workers - Matt Oquist and Madeline Flagg

Scripture Reading - Laura Sterrett

October 26

Greeter - Paula Townsend

Childcare Workers - Denise Kingsley and Aaron Brooks

Scripture Reading - Paula Townsend

November 2

Greeter - Bill Townsend

Childcare Workers - Allison Wakefield and Maria Gelin

Scripture Reading - Jonathan Claggett

Service of Praise

Prelude

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

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 95:1, 2, 6, 7

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

People: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

People: For He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

***Hymn of Praise**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
Number 302 in Trinity Hymnal

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Hymn of Praise**

All Creatures of Our God and King (verses 1, 4, 5)
Number 115 in Trinity Hymnal

**Congregation standing*

Confession of Sin

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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

A Moment of Private Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

* +Hymn of Thanks

I Will Glory in My Redeemer
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

Exodus 16:2-15 (NIV)

² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵ On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" ⁸ Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.' "

¹⁰ While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, ¹² "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.' "

¹³ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there

was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Prayer of Intercession

Sermon

Nicodemus and the Gospel

John 3:1-21 (NASB)

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

² this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

⁸ "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?"

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.

(continued on next page)

12 "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

16 "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.

17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

18 "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.

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

***Hymn of Response**

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art (verses 1-3, 5)
Number 168 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**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Come, Thou Almighty King (verse 4)**

Number 101 in Trinity Hymnal

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore!
His sovereign majesty
May we in glory see
And to eternity
Love and adore!

***Benediction**

Announcements

(Please be seated)

**Congregation standing*

Announcements*

Informational Meeting: On Sunday, October 19, we will have a brief informational meeting about the church budget. Bil Townsend, the church treasurer, will provide an update on our current financial position. (See below for budget information.)

Small groups are starting this week. If you are not currently in a group and would like to join one, please let Jason know. The Tuesday small group will meet at 7 p.m. at the Wakefields' house, 17 Wethersfield Dr., Nashua. The Wednesday small group will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Claggetts' house, 31 Lincoln Ave., Nashua.

Weekly Schedule:

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Life Together	Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	6:30 p.m.	Sunday Night Live	Church office
Tuesday	7 p.m.	Small Group	Wakefield house
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Small Group	Claggett house

Budget Information:

Four (4) Months June thru Sept. 2008

Regular Giving (excl. Mercy Fund)	\$27,576.25
Fund Raising	\$1,050.00
Total Giving	\$28,626.25
Actual Expenses (excl. Mercy Fund)	\$33,437.82
Shortfall as of 09/30/08	(\$4,811.57)

**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

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*

Reflections from Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

(excerpts from Chapter 23)

A statue has the shape of a man but is not alive. In the same way, man has (in a sense I am going to explain) the 'shape' or likeness of God, but he has not got the kind of life God has. Let us take the first point (man's resemblance to God) first. Everything God has made has some likeness to Himself. Space is like Him in its hugeness:

Matter is like God in having energy: though, again, of course, physical energy is a different kind of thing from the power of God. The vegetable world is like Him because it is alive, and He is the 'living God'.

But life, in this biological sense, is not the same as the life there is in God: it is only a kind of symbol or shadow of it. When we come on to the animals, we find other kinds of resemblance in addition to biological life. The intense activity and fertility of the insects, for example, is a first dim resemblance to the unceasing activity and the creativeness of God. In the higher mammals we get the beginnings of instinctive affection. That is not the same thing as the love that exists in God: but it is like it - rather in the way that a picture drawn on a flat piece of paper can nevertheless be 'like' a landscape. When we come to man, the highest of the animals, we get the completest resemblance to God which we know of. (There may be creatures in other worlds who are more like God than man is, but we do not know about them.) Man not only lives, but loves and reasons: biological life reaches its highest known level in him.

But what man, in his natural condition, has not got, is Spiritual life the higher and different sort of life that exists in God. We use the same word life for both: but if you thought that both must therefore be the same sort of thing, that would be like thinking that the 'greatness' of space and the 'greatness' of God were the same sort of greatness. In reality, the difference between Biological life and Spiritual life is so important that I am going to give them two distinct names. The Biological sort which comes to us through Nature, and which (like everything else in Nature) is always tending to run down and decay so that it can only be kept up by incessant subsidies from Nature in the form of air, water, food, etc., is Bios. The Spiritual life which is in God from all eternity, and which made the

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whole natural universe, is Zoe. Bios has, to be sure, a certain shadowy or symbolic resemblance to Zoe: but only the sort of resemblance there is between a photo and a place, or a statue and a man. A man who changed from having Bios to having Zoe would have gone through as big a change as a statue which changed from being a carved stone to being a real man.

And that is precisely what Christianity is about. This world is a great sculptor's shop. We are the statues and there is a rumour going round the shop that some of us are some day going to come to life.