



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 50 No. 7

October 2013

From the Pastor's Workshop

"Living Worship"

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' – Psalm 122:1

Have you ever thought about the purpose of worship? Why do we worship? Who or what do we worship? What forms does worship take? If we take time with these questions I think we will learn as Christians who and whose we are to be. I think we will learn what it means to be Holy; that is, set apart.

The word for "Church" in the Greek is similar to that of "Holy" in that it describes a people set apart from ordinary life. When we worship it is to be with the understanding that this time will be different so that WE will be different.

I love a quote from Soren Kierkegaard (his name means "Church guard") in which he says, "When we return from worship the question should not be, 'How was it?' but, 'How did I do?'" So easily in our culture that subtly and overtly worships self we can think that worship is to make US feel a particular way; that worship is *for us*. But when this is the case, interestingly often worship is seldom if ever satisfying. I have often found it so ironic that Americans get so excited when a sports event goes into extra innings or sudden death, but so anxious if the worship service goes longer than expected.

What does this say about our understanding of what worship is to be? There is a word in the Greek Paul uses in Colossians 2:23 that is translated "self-devised worship". How much of our worship in Church and in all of life is "self-devised"? In response to this the Second Helvetic (Swiss) Confession quotes Jesus in Matthew 15:9, "In vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines."

Which brings us to the question of, "What is *living* worship?" That is, how do we get beyond going through the motions and get beyond, as Tony Campolo says, "Singing 'Just as I Am' but going out just as we were?"

I want to suggest some answers. First, worship is not about style. It is not about entertainment or performance, because it is not about us, it is about God. And this may come as a surprise to some, God loves praise music AND God loves hymns. God loves worship that ends "on time" and that which goes beyond human expectation WHEN it is offered up for his glory by the entire body of worshippers and those leading. This is not an excuse for sermons that are too long or too short (haven't heard a complaint about the latter!) And it isn't permission for music or singing or praying done without prayerful consideration.

Second, worship shapes us to contain the glory of God to be poured out upon a dry, cracked, broken and parched world that needs God more than any of the lesser gods that are worshipped. When we come to worship God in this spirit we are open to being formed into God's vessels for God's purpose. With this in mind how will we worship, not just Sundays, but every day, thinking about each element of worshipping God? How did the announcement time open our hearts to opportunities to serve God and make God known? How did the greeting time prompt us to be people who move intentionally from a comfortable place to reach out to someone we don't know? Again, not just on Sunday. How did we let the prelude draw us into a stillness in which we can participate with prayerful hearts? How are we listening to the words and music of the anthems and prayers and sermon with minds anticipating the voice of God's Holy Spirit? And when any of these elements are "our thing" how are we praying that God would draw us into our place in praying that God would use this moment to equip us for the purpose of the Gospel. These questions call us to living worship.

I have been blessed to always love to be in worship, from the time I was little. I'm a curious kid. I have always had a sense God is going to do something, even if I am bored or even annoyed at what is going on! And I want to be part of it when it happens. Yes I am glad when it is said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord" because I know I will be surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" who will experience what God has for us and God will be glorified.

As we worship may we be about God's glory. May we pray for one another that together we will live our worship so that others may want to know Jesus Christ. THIS is why we worship.

Gladly going to the house of the Lord with you.

Bruce

Chosen to Be Witnesses

When I am alone with my thoughts, I spend a lot of daydreaming about the future. I find I have lots of opportunities to think: in the car or the shower, as I fall asleep at night, when I drink my morning coffee... I plan out sermons and conversations. I imagine how I would face different challenges. I get excited about upcoming events (or anxious!). What kinds of things do you think about?

I am becoming more and more aware that this time spent in thought is closely connected with hope. When I think about things – even fantastical things – I put tiny bits of hope into them. Somewhere in the process, my excitement about different possibilities transforms into hope and even expectations. I begin to set my heart on them. The more attractive an idea is, the more I find myself continuing to turn it over in my head. My mind becomes a swirling mess of dreams (or anxieties), and I find myself quietly pulled in many directions by all those hopes. We all know that harboring anxiety is not healthy, but what about our daydreams?

One of the most foundational ideas of Reformed theology is that God is sovereign. God is in charge. God calls the shots. When we come to grips with God's unique and total sovereignty along with His goodness and wisdom, we must also admit that God's plan for our lives is better than anything we dream up for ourselves. That means that when we think about all of the things that could happen in the future, we would be wise to choose to daydream and get excited about the plans that God has for us.

But this is not easy! God knows this and offers us constant encouragement in the Bible to put our hope in His plan. "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col. 3:2). "Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psa. 37:4). "For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him" (Psa. 62:5). "We look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18). "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

I have found that one of the most energizing aspects of the gospel that I can ponder is how God has used an unbroken line of witnesses to testify to me about Jesus. When Jesus gathered his twelve disciples, he had us in mind. When Jesus abruptly stopped Paul on the road to Damascus, he was setting in motion a plan to bring the gospel all around the Mediterranean, to Europe, and beyond. I get so excited about this because I hear the excitement in the voices of the first witnesses and those who spoke directly with me. I think of Paul, C. S. Lewis, Dr. Ross Wagner, and Amanda Berry.

Here's how Irenaeus described his connection to the Apostle John (as recorded by Eusebius of Caesarea):

"I can describe the place where blessed Polycarp sat and talked, his goings out and comings in, the character of his life, his personal appearance, his addresses to crowded congregations. I remember how he spoke of his conversations with John and with the others who had seen the Lord; how he repeated their words from memory; and how the things that he had heard them say about the Lord, his miracles and his teaching, things that he had heard direct from the eyewitnesses of the Word of life, were proclaimed by Polycarp in complete harmony with scripture. To these things I listened eagerly at that time, by the mercy of God shown to me, not committing them to writing but learning them by heart."

Jesus spent time with John, who spent time with Polycarp, who spent time with Irenaeus >>>> so that I would get to know the one who died for me! And then – this is the best part – God has given me exactly the tools I need to continue that unbroken line of witnesses.

We are constantly surrounded by so many businesses, politicians, cultural voices, and individuals who want us to put our hope in them. They fill our minds with slogans, jingles, and promises of fulfillment. But nothing they can offer us will satisfy us as completely and eternally as God's promise to make us ministers of reconciliation, royal ambassadors, and harvest workers.

God, with all wisdom and power, has chosen to use **us** to tell the world about the salvation that comes through Jesus. It will take nothing less than all our creativity and passion to pursue this dream. God's Holy Spirit will be with us every step of the way to supply us with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, and self-control. We can put our hope in God, because He is faithful.

Dan



THE KING'S KIDS – OCTOBER



...Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' Luke 18:16



KING'S KIDS BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Kids experiencing Jesus and community as we walk through God's Big Story --- asking WHO is the King?

Oct. 6: "Best Friends Forever" (David & Jonathan are friends: 1 Samuel 18-20)

Oct. 13: "Hiding from the King" (David flees from Saul & saves Saul's life: 1 Samuel 24, 26)

Oct. 20: "David Worships God" (David brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem: 1 Samuel 6)

Oct. 27: "Bible Hero Celebration" (see below)

OCTOBER BIBLE VERSES

Memorize these verses as a family and see how God uses them in your lives!

Kids receive a jewel on their SON-Castle shield, and a gold coin toward purchases at the Royal Market.

****Kids in kindergarten & first grade may learn just the first line!*



***"The Lord is my strength and my shield.

My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." Psalm 28:7



"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5,6

Older King's Kids' challenge:

Old Testament books: Books of Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Books of History: Joshua; Judges; Ruth; 1, 2 Samuel; 1, 2 Kings; 1 & 2 Chronicles; Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther



Oct. 27: "Bible Hero Celebration"

King's Kids celebrate Bible Heroes during our Bible Experience.

Kids are encouraged to wear a costume of a Bible person (or thing)!

Prizes for kids in Bible costumes --- a bathrobe with a GOOD prop will do!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, OCTOBER 18TH 7-9 p.m.: Family Game Night & Spaghetti dinner

Sunday, December 8th: Advent Workshop: a Make-It-Take-It workshop of Christmas crafts

Saturday, December 14th: 9:00 a.m. Pageant rehearsal for ALL King's Kids

Sunday, December 15th: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant (King's Kids and Youth)

REMEMBER: GREAT DVD's & books are in the Kid's section of our church library!



Worship - The Choice We Make

Perhaps you have heard the phrase, "everyone worships something". We can worship God, or we can worship something/everything else. Which is most soul-satisfying? Think about that - if the God of the universe created us for communion with Him, He created us to worship. What do we choose to worship? Some folks worship money, power, self, other people, possessions, but some folks choose to worship the true and living God.

In the book of Jonah, the prophet says, "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs." (Jonah 2:8). Our character is formed by what we worship. If we want our character to be Christ-like, we need to worship Him, not all the other distractions in the world. And, if we follow the worthless idols of this world, we will become worthless ourselves, (Jeremiah 2:5). We have a choice to make. Will we glorify God and thank Him? I hope so. After all "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Our tendency as humans is to conform, but God wants to transform us. Conforming is something we do on our own; transforming is something that only God can do, because it means our character is being changed. I know that I cannot change my character -- I'm too weak to do that - I naturally like to follow the crowd; only God can change my character. He does this by renewing my mind. We will find ourselves in a power struggle with God, if we think we can do this life on our own, without His help. He will give us over to whatever sad idols we have replaced Him with, and that destructive way is broad.

If I surrender myself to the will of God and let Him work out my life, I will have peace that He provides. Without that peace, my soul will be restless. I will always be looking for the next big thing, or the next small diversion if my eyes are on the same things the world is looking at. That's conforming and it is very deadly. I need to let God change the way I think. I need to "fall on God's mercy, present (myself) to Him in worship, have my mind renewed from its futile thinking, and discover His will for me" - so says Buddy Owens in his book *The Way of the Worshiper*.

Won't you join me in making the choice to worship God instead of worthless idols?

Blessings,
Karen

P.S. Check this month's calendar for Music Program items and ways you can assist others in worshipping the true and living God!

DEACON CORNER

Deacon Sunday is scheduled for October 13th between services. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your deacon and sample all the goodies, so please join us at this fun event. Did you know that we have C.D.'s and tapes of Sunday's sermon? If you would like to have your deacon deliver one along with a Sunday bulletin, just let him or her know. We also would love to bring Communion to you if you are unable to attend the Communion service. The deacons are here to serve you in any way we can. We are just a phone call away. If you do not know who your deacon is, just call the church office and they will be able to put you in touch with your deacon.

Sandy Hatchell, Deacon Moderator

COME JOIN THE DESERT SCHOONERS on Tuesday, October 22 at 11:30 in the family Life Center. The program will be "Working in the White House" by Sara Gregory. She is a Carson City resident and actually did work in the White House. Bring a sack lunch, but drinks and dessert will be provided.

"YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED"

Karl Barth

"You probably all know the legend of the rider who crossed the frozen lake of Constance by night without knowing it. When he reached the opposite shore and was told whence he came, he broke down, horrified. This is the human situation when the sky opens and the earth is bright, when we may hear: *By grace you have been saved!* In such a moment we are like that terrified rider. When we hear this word we involuntarily look back, do we not, asking ourselves: Where have I been? Over an abyss, in mortal danger! What did I do? The most foolish thing I ever attempted! What happened? I was doomed and miraculously escaped and now I am safe! You ask: "Do we really live in such danger?". Yes, we live on the brink of death. But we have been saved. Look at our Savior and at our Salvation! Look at Jesus Christ on the cross, accused, sentenced and punished instead of us! Do you know for whose sake he is hanging there? For *oursake* – because of *our sin* – sharing *our captivity* – burdened with *oursuffering!* He nails *our life* to the cross. This is how God had to deal with *us*. From this darkness he has saved *us*. He who is not shattered after hearing this news may not yet have grasped the word of God: *By grace you have been saved!*"

SMALL GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

All young adults (18-39) are invited to come to the Auments' house every other Thursday evening (6:30-8) for fellowship and Bible study. We are currently working through 1 Peter. We'll meet in October on the 3rd & 17th. Come join us! We get to enjoy food, community, God, and the occasional homebrew. Please email Dan Aument (dan@fpccarsoncity.org) with any questions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Darla J. Beers
Chuck and Loretta (Lori) Campbell
Douglas N. and Pamela A. Cornford
Gail Jenkins
Matthew C. and Tiffany M. Spears
Curtis (Curt) Spradley
Stacey M. Warwick
Delores M. White

GET YOUR FREE FLU VACCINE!

Carson City – Drive Through, October 5, 2013,
9 AM – 1 PM. 3303 Butti Way.
Call 887-2190 for more information.
Minden – Drive Through October 12, 2013
9 AM – 1 PM Douglas High School 1670 Highway 88.
Call 783-6436 for more information.

BECOME A FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT

Carson City does not have enough foster families to serve this community. Therefore when abused or neglected children are removed from their homes, they may be sent outside the community to a foster home. This disrupts a child's rapport with a teacher or other familiar support systems.

CAN YOU HELP?

Find how you can participate by picking up a folder in the Narthex information booth. There are many types of care that may be suitable for your specific situation.



October Birthdays

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 9-25-2013

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

FAMILY GAMING NIGHT is Friday, October 18th. Come and play with us 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Video, card, board games, ping pong and more. A spaghetti dinner will be served.

World Communion Sunday is October 6th

New Address for Carol Heffner: 3012 Bear Valley Parkway #221 Escondido, CA 92025

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP will meet in the church library on Thursday October 10 at 1:30 PM. Our workbook is titled "An Abiding Hope" The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy. Join us each 2nd Thursday from September to May to read and discuss questions from the workbook that is available.



October Anniversaries

Names omitted in online version for privacy.



OCTOBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																							
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Pastors

The Rev. Bruce Kochsmeier
The Rev. Dan Aument

Worship Services

9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

Webpage

www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to dan@fpccarsoncity.org and may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by Bette Denning.

October Sermons

October 6: "Guarding the Treasure" II Timothy 1:1-14

October 13: "The Unchained Gospel" II Timothy 2:8-15

October 20: "Here We Are, Send Us" Report from Ethiopia

October 27: "In Season and Out" II Timothy 3:14-4:5