

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 1-29-12

Words of Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship --John Milton (1608-1674), English poet.

L: Holy Spirit of God, who prefers before all temples the upright heart and pure, instruct us in all truth.

C: What is dark, illumine; what is low, raise and support; what is shallow, deepen, that every chapter in our lives may witness to your power and justify the ways of God to all people. In the name of Jesus, giver of all grace. Amen.

Hymn #185 When Morning Guilds the Skies

Psalter 111 Response #2 p. 832

Hymn #395 Take Time to Be Holy (vs. 1-2)

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of compassion, we confess that in our busy-ness we do not always love, we forget whose we are and to whom we belong; we get caught up in what we know, what we want, putting our desires ahead of everyone and everything else. We listen to false prophets, and worship idols of our own making. Forgive us, O God, for words that hurt, actions that destroy, knowledge that belittles, addictions that consume. Forgive us when our pride and self-righteousness build walls in our relationships with you, our family and our friends and neighbors. Season us with your love. Help us to be kind and loving — encouraging others instead of demeaning them. Make us agents of your transforming hope in a hurting world. In the name of the one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom we see the face of God. Amen.

(Silent Reflection & Prayer of Assurance)

Lord's Prayer:

Hymn #395 Take Time to Be Holy (vs. 3-4)

Anthem

Offertory:

*Doxology No. 96 Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above (vs. 1)

Pastoral Prayer

Focus Scripture 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NLT)

1 Now let's talk about food that has been sacrificed to idols. You think that everyone should agree with your perfect knowledge. While knowledge may make us feel important, it is love that really builds up the church. 2 Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much. 3 But the person who loves God is the one God knows and cares for. 4 So now, what about it? Should we eat meat that has been sacrificed to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God and no other. 5 According to some people, there

are many so-called gods and many lords, both in heaven and on earth. 6 But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we exist for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life. 7 However, not all Christians realize this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. 8 It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat. We don't miss out on anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do. 9 But you must be careful with this freedom of yours. Do not cause a brother or sister with a weaker conscience to stumble. 10 You see, this is what can happen: Weak Christians who think it is wrong to eat this food will see you eating in the temple of an idol. You know there's nothing wrong with it, but they will be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been dedicated to the idol. 11 So because of your superior knowledge, a weak Christian, for whom Christ died, will be destroyed. 12 And you are sinning against Christ when you sin against other Christians by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong. 13 If what I eat is going to make another Christian sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live -- for I don't want to make another Christian stumble.

Sermon: Better Angels of Our Nature

*Hymn #384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Benediction & Three-Fold "Amen"

**THE SUMMIT
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Song Set

Children's Moment

God's Word for Us - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NLT)

Message: Better Angels of Our Nature

Song Set