

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP
Notes from Rodney L. Barbour
January 24, 2010

Theme: Pastor Alan writes: *Jesus chose twelve apostles and sent them out; Jesus chose us all and sent us out as well. What does that mean, and how did the early apostles do? Jesus had an interesting response: he saw "Satan fall like lightning from the sky." (Lk 10:18). Time to mount up, brothers and sisters...* Today our worship songs and scriptures will focus on being called and being sent into the world to share the gospel.

Prelude: Speak O Lord. God speaks to us through his word. Unless we have God's Spirit and God's Word in us, we have nothing to depart from as we move into the world. This song is a request for God to speak to us as we move toward him that *"the light of Christ might be seen today in our act of love and our deeds of faith."*

Call to Worship: Our Call to Worship continues our theme and reminds us *"only in God's power can we accomplish our tasks"*. As you enter worship, ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you and fill you with God's presence and his word.

Leader: Lord, you chose and send out ordinary people---people like us---in your name.

People: Only in your power can ordinary people accomplish extraordinary things for your kingdom.

Leader: Thank you for choosing us to be your disciples, Lord Jesus.

People: Teach us and empower us to live lives that are worthy of your calling.

Hymn of Fellowship: It is important for each of us to have a personal relationship to God through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. It's also important for us to have a relationship with other believers as we "practice" our faith and as we teach and admonish each other. This hymn describes congregational life and ends with a statement of dedication, praise and adoration

*God is here! As we his people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share:
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of his Spirit into open minds and hearts.*

Vs2

*Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font and pulpit, here the cross has central place:
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence as in speech,
Here in newness and renewal God the Spirit comes to each.*

Vs3

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;

*Here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old;
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.*

Vs4

*Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out;
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
We who cannot live without you, we adore you! we believe.*

Confession: Today's confession time reminds us we sometimes try to do God's work according to our own will and in our own power. Today we ask for forgiveness when we don't take the time to listen to God's voice.

Leader: Lord, you give us your Holy Spirit, who works through us and supplies us with wisdom and power to accomplish the tasks you set before us.

People: Lord, forgive us when we aren't listening to your voice. Help us not to rely on our human effort but on your Spirit's power working in our life.

Assurance of Pardon: As we confess our sins, God does offer us forgiveness. We need to repent and accept the forgiveness he offers.

Leader: God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus.

People: We receive and accept God's forgiveness and grace with believing hearts!

Scripture/Sermon: Be sure and read Matthew 10: 1-4 before coming to worship. Jesus called his disciples. He didn't draft them, force them, or ask them to volunteer. Being called means being chosen to serve Christ in a special way. If you truly know him, you can do nothing else. Christ calls us today. He doesn't twist our arms and make us do something we don't want to do. We can choose to join him or remain behind.

Sermon Response: Today we will share a historic creed or declaration of faith. The Nicene Creed is the profession of faith that is most widely used in Christian liturgy. It is called Nicene because, in its original form, it was adopted in the city of Nicaea by the first ecumenical council which met there in 325. As we stand and profess our faith today we join with Christians throughout the ages in the continuation of God's story.

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds. God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Song of Response: Following the recitation of the creed, we join together in singing another historic song of worship---The Gloria Patri—a song of praise to the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Ghost). The most characteristic liturgical use of the Gloria Patri has been after a reading of a psalm, to provide a New Testament or Trinitarian ending.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
World without end, Amen, Amen.*

Song of Response: Coming full circle back to our theme for today's worship, a focus on being called and being sent into the world to share the gospel, the choir will lead us in singing these words of Jesus found in Matthew 10: (*Go to the lost sheep of Israel, preach this message: the kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.) Freely you have received, freely give.*

*God forgave my sin in Jesus' name. I've been born again in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share His love as He told me to:
He said, "freely, freely you have received---freely, freely give;
Go in my name and, because you believe, others will know that I live."*

*All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name, in earth and heav'n in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share His pow'r as He told me to:*

See you in Worship this Sunday! Rodney Barbour