

# ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD

## *A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal*

### GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### MISSIONAL LIVING TESTIMONY —Women's Ministry/Retreat

9:00 a.m.: Christine Shih  
10:45 a.m.: Stowe Shockey

### INVOCATION

—Elder Terry Shafer

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 103:19-22 (NIV)

19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all.

20 Praise the LORD, you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
who obey his word.

21 Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,  
you his servants who do his will.

22 Praise the LORD, all his works  
everywhere in his dominion.  
Praise the LORD, O my soul.

### WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

*Lyric sheets of today's music can be obtained from the ushers upon request*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD— Pastors Scott Roley and Scotty Smith

#### UNVEILED HOPE:

#### **The Present and Future of Heaven, Pt. 1** ***Learning to Live Like Heaven Is a Real Place***

- I. The Book of Revelation and Heaven – Reorienting Ourselves to the New Creation World of “Unveiled Hope”
  - It is *impossible* to be too “heavenly minded,” for how we think about heaven largely determines how we choose to live in this life.

- It is *very possible* to be wrong-minded about heaven!
- It is *imperative* to mine and the mind what the Bible has to say about heaven because “heaven” defines the focus, context and the hope of our mission as followers of Jesus.

### GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2

#### II. A Brief Glimpse of the New Creation World Jesus Has Risen to Create

**Revelation 21:1-5** - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” <sup>5</sup>He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

#### III. Learning to Live Like Heaven Is a Real Place

**John 20:21-22** - Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

“Jesus has accomplished the defeat of death, and has begun the work of new creation. Jesus’ mission to Israel, reached its climax in his death and resurrection, is thus to be implemented by the disciples’ mission to the world. That’s why they need the Holy Spirit: Jesus’ breath, God’s breath, to enable them to do the job they could not otherwise dream of doing... The healing breath of God’s Spirit has been given to undo the long effects of primal rebellion...

This takes us back to the moment of creation itself. In Genesis 2:7 God breathed into human nostrils his own breath, the breath of life, and humankind became alive, alive with God’s life. Now, in the new creation, the restoring life of God is breathed out through Jesus, making new people of the disciples, and, through them, offering this new life to the world... They are to pronounce, in God’s name and by his Spirit, the message of forgiveness to all who believe in Jesus, They are to ‘retain’ sins: to warn the world that sin is a serious, deadly disease, and that to remain in it will bring death.” (*John for Everyone: Part Two*, N.T. Wright)

- Do you have the peace of Jesus?
- Have you received the Spirit of God?
- Are you living as though eternal life has already begun?
- What are your questions about heaven? Please get them to Scott Roley and myself!

## SONG OF RESPONSE

## BENEDICTION



## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. What had the most impact on you today from our time in God's worship and Word? What was encouraging, convicting, and/or calling for more clarification?
2. When you think about heaven, what are your first impressions? What excites you, and what doesn't really excite you at all when you think about heaven?
3. What have been the greatest influences on your understanding of heaven? Who or what has shaped your vision of eternity, and from what you heard or saw this morning, what stereotypes have you carried about heaven? What are some of the questions you hope this study of heaven will wrestle with? Get those questions to Scott and Scotty!!!
4. Close with a good season of prayer for one another.

## FOR NEXT WEEK:

Marinate in Revelation 20 as we take a closer look at the "already and not-yet" of our life as followers of Jesus.

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Discipleship on the Edge*, Darrell W. Johnson  
*The Bible and the Future*, Anthony A. Hoekema  
*Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection and the Mission of the Church*, N.T. Wright  
*Heaven*, Randy Alcorn  
*Engaging God's World*, Cornelius Plantinga Jr.



