

ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD
A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal

MEDITATION AND PREPARATION—

Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke (when we gather to worship God)? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. (Annie Dillard)

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

INVOCATION

—Elder Johnny Clark

CALL TO WORSHIP

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen!" (**Revelation 7:9-12**)

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

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

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 1

—PASTOR SCOTTY SMITH

I. THE WHAT AND WHERE OF WORSHIP

Our Eternal Worship Center: The new heaven and new earth—the "new creation" world of perfect peace and righteousness.

Rev. 21:1 *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.*

- Before God's worship and his worshippers were broken through sin, everything Adam and Eve did was an act of worship—a means of declaring God's worth and glory. Not only is that so, but everything in creation also was a revelation of God's worth and glory! Creation and culture sang God's praises!
- Indeed, before there were worship services there was only worship service! Through the work of Jesus we are destined for a never-ending life of the perfected, unbroken worship of the new heaven and new earth!

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2

—PASTOR SCOTT ROLEY

II. THE WHO OF WORSHIP

The Worshippers: The whole Body of Christ, assembled from every single race, tribe and people group, from every period of history... alive with the joy of being Jesus' bride

Rev. 21:2 *I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*

Try to imagine what it's going to be like when the entire family of God sings AND lives to God's glory! We should anticipate those services of worship and envision what it will mean to live in the perfect society of the new heaven and new earth! No more fighting over styles of music or forms of liturgy, **AND** no more fighting over societal, economic, cultural or political issues! **We will celebrate God's glory and grace through our diversity and unity forever in everything we do!**

III. The Worship Leader: God Himself!

Rev. 21:3-8 *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. ⁴He 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." ⁵He 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."*

Let us never forget— our calling is not just **to worship**, but to **worship God!** At the return of Jesus and the resurrection of our bodies, we will finally be free from all idol worship and all idle worship, and we will love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength... together and forever... all because of the finished work of Jesus!

SONG OF REFLECTION

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 3

—PASTOR SCOTTY SMITH

IV. THE HOW OF WORSHIP

The Worship Culture: The ultimate blended worship. Imagine the trans-generational, poly-cultural, pan-national family of God giving glory to our Triune God forever!

Rev. 21:22-26 *I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.*

- Imagine what it will be like for the whole family of God to fill the new heaven and new earth with the imprint of all cultures, and the new cultural expressions which will emerge from our shared life together! Every thought we think, every conversation we have, every endeavor of our hands will glorify God! Oh, the freedom, joy and beauty Jesus has won for us!

- We are not just to **anticipate** the perfected worship of God in the new heaven and new earth, we are to increasingly **participate** in it now! How can the worship of THAT Day influence and shape how we worship God in THIS day... in our services or worship, and by our worship service?
- To worship God well breaks and stretches ALL of us, for we are made to enjoy so much more than we are capable of imagining. We are redeemed to love as Jesus loves us, and he loves his WHOLE bride!

SONG OF RESPONSE

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION FOR THE OFFICE OF ELDER AND DEACON, CLASS OF 2008—

Elders: Jerry Bowen, John Giffen, Dan Jones, Jon Reynolds, and Steve Turley

Deacons: Ken Debelius, Mark Freeman, Drew Hollowell, Joe Kemble, Dan Lynch, Adam McBride and Jon Miller

Emeritus Elders: Bill Brown, Randy Trigg, Bob Wilson

BENEDICTION



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION:

1. What had the most impact on you from our time today in God's worship and Word? What was encouraging, convicting, and/or calling for more clarification?
2. How did today's service of worship challenge and stretch your thoughts about God's worship? What is the relationship between worship service and services of worship?
3. What are you beginning to get really excited about as you ponder our life in the new heaven and new earth? What did you get a taste of today for which makes you hungry for the whole feast of worship?
4. What remaining questions do you have about heaven that Scotty and Scott have yet to address? Get them to those boys this week!
5. Close with a good season of prayer for one another... with GREAT JOY AND ANTICIPATION!