

## ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD

*A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal*

January 24, 2010

### GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM, 9:00 A.M.—

Elizabeth Ani Seibert  
child of John and Shannon Seibert

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM, 10:45 A.M.—

Cooper James Pike  
child of Paul and Jenny Pike

Ada Colleen Zecher  
Cora Eve Zecher  
children of Daniel and Rachael Zecher

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

#### CALL TO WORSHIP GOD—

*We gather to worship our God in spirit and in truth...*

**Romans 12:1-2 (NIV):** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### WORSHIPPING GOD THROUGH SINGING

#### CONFESSING OUR GOSPEL FAITH—

##### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He arose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED FOR THE GOSPEL TODAY—

### THE PASTORAL PRAYER

### PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 1—

#### THE BOOK OF DANIEL :

#### Our Sovereign God... Servant Calling... Certain Hope

#### I. Entering THE King's Service: Connections and Applications

**Daniel 1:17** To these four young men (Daniel and his friends) God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

<sup>18</sup> At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. <sup>20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

<sup>21</sup> And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

**Recap:** Last week we talked about the church as a community of salt and light. Jesus has commissioned us, like Daniel and his friends, to “push back the effects of the fall”—that is, to show up in the broken places of our culture and community as advocates for the least and the lost. We are to love mercy, do justice walk humbly with our God. We're also commissioned to live proactively as “light”—that is, to offer our community a preview and foretaste of the “city whose builder and maker is God.”

“The purpose of the Christian Church is **not** to function as a chaplaincy for those who are barely hanging on to their faith. It is **not** intended to act as a safe-house where we gather to clean off the filth from the world around us. The Christian community is **not** to be seen primarily as a support group where we receive inspiration and affirmation for living our individual lives.

Though the community may provide all these personal blessings and more, the Christian community is intended to reflect a new way of being human to this world. We are to be an alternate city wherever God places us demonstrating what a truly human society looks like. We are more than a support group for individuals, rather we as individuals are to gather together into a community and put on display what a society looks like when it is transformed by the Gospel. Simply, we are a counter-culture. Since we are an alternate city, we are to show this city what it looks like when justice, mercy, compassion, truth, love, grace, and holiness reign.” (Tim Keller)

Every city where gospel-driven churches are planted should become better places to live because of those churches, and the followers of Jesus who live there. Briefly consider what this strategy looked like early in the Book of Daniel...

- **God equipped Daniel and his friends with knowledge and understanding in all kinds of vocational endeavors.** This was critical for the unfolding plan God determined for Babylon. Indeed, God uses more than good evangelists to tell his story of redemption and restoration. God did the same for Joseph in an earlier period in the history of redemption. Joseph was raised up by God to serve second in command to the Pharaoh in Egypt. Joseph's gifts as a city planner and famine relief expert proved to be a critical component to the advancing of the gospel and the kingdom during a time of incredible famine in Egypt, and throughout the surrounding nations.

- **God first rooted Daniel and his friends in a knowledge of the true King, his grace and a vision of his kingdom.** This will become increasingly evident to us as we work through the Book of Daniel. It was because these men knew and loved the true King that they were able to serve king Nebuchadnezzar so faithfully for so long.

**BUT... what about us?** What are the implications of these stories for how we choose to live our lives? Today we're going to interact with three people who sit among you each Sunday morning—two brothers and one sister whose stories offer us clear connections and practical applications for this way of life. How would coming more fully alive to the gospel and kingdom of Jesus affect how you view and use the gifts, talents, passions, experience God has entrusted to you? There are no little people and no little places in the story that God is telling through the person and work of Jesus.

“Missional Living” and a “Community of Salt and Light” means serving, sacrifice and suffering. It means using our gifts for His glory. It's the normal Christian life. It's encouraging our flock to give their lives away—all of us, not just those on the mission field.

#### Connection and Application:

**Gordon Kennedy** is a musician, songwriter and producer. He is a two-time Grammy award winner. He received one for Song of the Year for Eric Clapton's "Change The World" (writer) and the other for Best Pop Instrumental Album for Peter Dinklage's "Fingerprints" (producer.) He has written and played for many artists. He and his wife, Tracey, have two children and have been a part of Christ Community for 22 years.

### GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2—

## II. More Connections and Applications:

**Caroline Cone, MSN, APRN, BC** is currently in private practice and is on the adjunct faculty at Vanderbilt. She previously taught psychiatric nursing for fourteen years. Caroline and her husband, Mitch have four children and have been a part of the Christ Community family for 20 years.

**Julian Bibb III** is an attorney and has worked for the same law firm for almost 33 years. He divides his time between his law practice and working with non-profits. He is married to Jayne, and they have been a part of the Christ Community family for the past nine years. They have four children and two grandchildren.

**In Conclusion:** Let's never forget, let's NEVER forget, that our King, Jesus, lived and died to make us his own. The King of kings and Lord of lords is none other than the Lamb of God who died to take away our sins. He is making all things new, including us... including middle Tennessee... including Haiti.

### SONG OF RESPONSE—SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HAITI

#### BENEDICTION—

**Romans 12:6-8** - We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully... *In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

#### Questions for Reflection, Discussion and Application

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. Scott taught us that the Old Testament figures of Daniel and Joseph represent the New Testament concepts of Salt and Light. Salt because they push back the darkness (preserving the truth); Light because they lead their people out of the darkness (pointing to Jesus). How are the metaphors of Salt and Light applicable to you in this season of your life?
3. The testimonies were from (3) people working in very different vocations. In what way do you relate to being overwhelmed by the events around you or the neglecting of the clear calling of God to invite others to follow Jesus? As you listened to the three stories of fellow CCC congregants, what did you feel, hear and learn? What intrigued you? How can you “go and do likewise?”
4. What are your “take-a-ways” from this service? Very specifically, what can you do to apply what you heard, felt and learned today? Where will you begin?
5. Pray for one another that following Jesus would be central to your life and that His Spirit would lead you to live by faith into whatever vocation He calls you.

**Your Assignment:** Read through the whole Book of Daniel before next week, and continue to do so at least once a week during this series. Get a copy of either **Culture Making**, by Andy Crouch, or **Engaging God's World**, by Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.... and start reading and underling what Jesus teaches you!