

**ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
*A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal*  
January 17, 2010

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM, 10:45 A.M.—**

Katherine Hendrick Magargee  
child of Peter and Pepper Magargee

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP GOD**

*We gather to worship our God in spirit and in truth...*  
Isaiah 55: 1-3 (NIV)

"Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.  
Give ear and come to me;  
hear me, that your soul may live.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.

**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. The Book of Daniel calls churches to an identity check.**  
**What does it mean to be the people of God in the world?**

**Five ways Christians can relate to the surrounding culture :**

**Over-adaptations to Culture—**

1. **Un-Culture** – We can be absorbed into the culture, losing any distinct identity as followers of Jesus.
2. **Sub-Culture** – We can compartmentalize our relationship with God, celebrating its importance but separating its influence from every other sphere of life.

**Under-engagement with Culture—**

3. **Anti-Culture** – We can live in opposition to the culture, making church more like a defensive fort than a transforming presence in the world.
4. **Para-Culture** – We can live as those passing through this world to the next, doing personal evangelism and offering some degree of Christian influence before the end of history.

**The Third Way... Transforming Culture—**

5. **Counter-Culture** – We can live as critical participants in the culture. Not as **angry pessimists**, nor as **naive optimists**; instead, as **hopeful realists**, we are to live as salt and light—participating in Jesus' commitment to make all things new through the growth of his kingdom.

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS—**

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2**

**II. The Church as a Community of Salt and Light**

**Jesus used two very common and important images to help us understand the "Third Way" of engaging and transforming our culture and community:**

**Matt. 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

***Salt withstands decay = Pushing back the effects of the fall.*** The church is commissioned by Jesus to bring a preserving, medicinal, flavor-enhancing presence to every sphere of life and culture. Everywhere the original *shalom* (peace) of creation was violated, the church is to show up.

***Light dispels the darkness = Offering the glow of the city that is coming—the New Jerusalem.*** The church is called to live in the culture as a small but significant "preview of coming attractions."

**Hebrews 11:8** By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

**SONG OF REFLECTION—**

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 3**

**III. The Book of Daniel also calls individual believers to an identity check. What king and what kingdom has captured your heart, imagination, passions, time, talent and treasures?**

**Daniel 1:8** – *But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine.*

**Daniel is a great example of an individual believer**

- Captured by the love of God,
- Engaged with the story of God; and
- Living for the passions of God

**Only the gospel of God's grace can make of us a community of such men and women.**

**SONG OF RESPONSE**

**BENEDICTION—**

**Matt. 6:25** "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

<sup>27</sup> Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

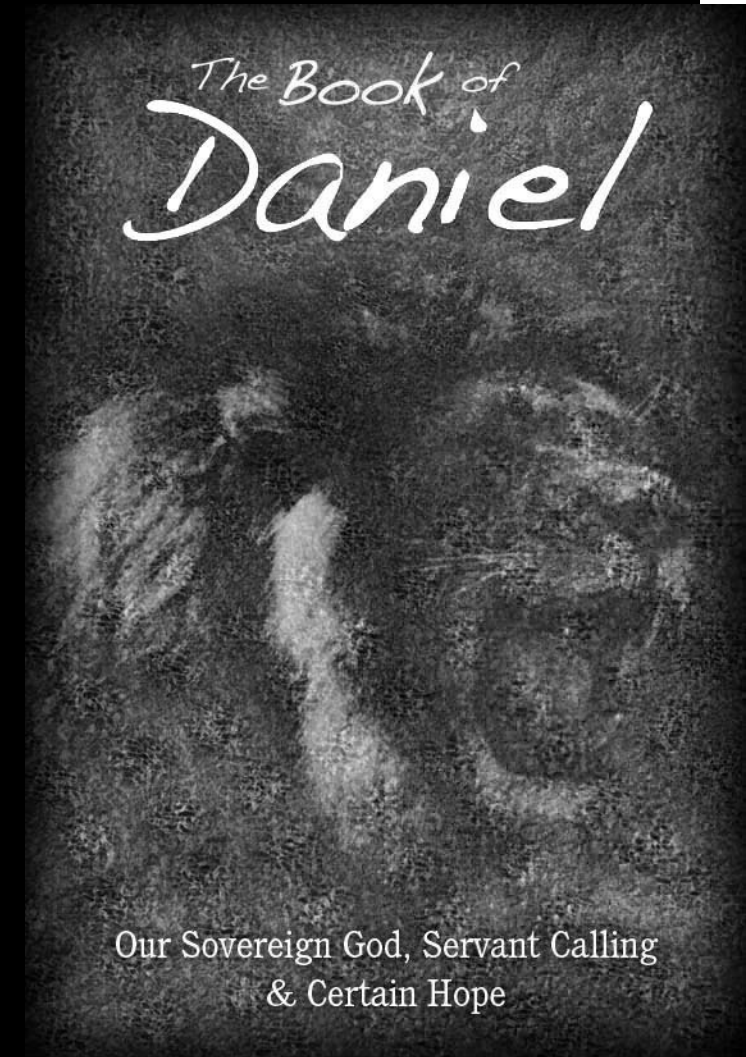
<sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

**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. Take a quick look back at the five ways churches can relate to the culture. As you consider your own spiritual journey, which of these have you experienced? How has the gospel moved you more towards the 5<sup>th</sup>, the view of the church as a counter-culture? What does this look like in your own life?
3. Scott Roley did a great job making the connection between the calling God gave his people to live in Babylon and Jesus' calling for us to live as salt and light. Think about each of these two metaphors. How can a church help "push back the effects of the fall?" How can a church help reveal the "glow" of the "city whose builder and maker is God?" Think practical, practical, practical! How might the crisis in Haiti serve as an incredible opportunity for us to learn how to live as salt and light as a church family?
4. Scotty finished the service focusing on our individual commitments and experience of the gospel. Daniel purposed not "to defile" himself because his heart was enthralled with the beauty, goodness and sovereignty of his God. How's your heart, here early in 2010? Is the beauty of Jesus compelling?, compelling enough for you to purpose to live for his glory and not the pleasures of the world? What does this look like? How might you begin to seek first the kingdom of God and the righteousness of Jesus in a fresh way in 2010? What will this require of you for which the gospel alone can resource you?
5. Close with a good season of prayer for one another.



# The Book of Daniel



Our Sovereign God, Servant Calling  
& Certain Hope

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