

May 17 Worship
Reader-Dan Hopkins& Family

Announcements/Joys

Time Of Quiet Meditation- *“The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.”* Isaiah 40:8

Opening Scripture- Psalm 68:33-36(page 501)

Opening Chorus- 40- Thou Art Worthy(vs 1)

Responsive Call To Worship-

Leader: We have come to worship God, the living God.

People: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

Leader: We have come to praise God, the almighty God.

People: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

Leader: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God.

People: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.

All: All glory to God! Amen.

Hymn of Praise- 51- Crown Him With Many Crowns

Unison Prayer/Lord's Prayer- Almighty God, as we prepare to worship today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future. Through Jesus, our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying...*Lord's Prayer...*

“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Gloria Patri- 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.

Old Testament Scripture- Proverbs 18:12-15(page 561)

Special Music-

Gospel Scripture- John 17:1-11(page 941)

Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace

Hymn- 433- My Faith Looks Up To Thee

New Testament Scripture- 1 Peter 4:6-11(page 1061)

Message

“Spread The Word”

Steven Raymond of The Gideon's will speak about their mission of spreading the Word of God through the giving of Bibles around the world.

Why is the Bible so important to us? Why should we care if the Word of God is made available to everyone? The Holy Bible is considered by many people to be a gift from God. The Bible consists of 66 different books, written by about 40 different authors over a period of about 1,500 years. Even though it has 40 people involved in writing this collection, there is indisputable evidence that it was inspired by one individual power that we call God. The Bible is “God-breathed”; “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16) The human authors wrote exactly what God wanted them to write, and the result was the perfect and holy Word of God.

We, us, the children of God, are the recipients of this great gift but we are not meant to keep it to ourselves. It has been given to us, not only to read and learn from, it has been given to us so that we can share it with all those who, for whatever reason, do not know about it. Jesus gave a clear mission when He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). This isn't just a casual suggestion; it's a joyous command laden with purpose. Sharing the Good News boldly fulfills this heavenly assignment and keeps our hearts aligned with His heart for the lost.

We hear all the time about something or someone that will save the world from this calamity or that disaster. We are told that we need to do certain things in order to save our environment or save the whale or save something else. It is through our knowledge of God's Word that we learn about the only way to save the world and that way is through faith in God acceptance of Jesus Christ, and adherence to the teachings of the Holy Spirit. If you want to find out how the world will be saved,

look to the Holy Bible. The entire message of the books of scripture are meant to lead us to an understanding of just how God intends for this world to end up.

The Bible is not supposed to be a book that we read once and put it on a shelf. There are lessons in there for every situation that you can imagine. Each and every time you go to the Bible you will find that it will lead to an answer **IF**, we listen to the words as God presents them. Reading God's "word," or message, in the Bible can change our life. It can help us to examine ourselves as never before. We may claim to love God, but how we react to what his inspired Word, the Bible, teaches will reveal our true thoughts, even the very intentions of the heart. There was a time when God's Word was passed on through the spoken word. There were only certain people who had the ability to read. When the printing press was invented and the population slowly became literate, the Bible became available to more and more people.

How many of you have a Bible in your home? Now, here is a question that you do not have to answer. How many of those Bibles are read on a regular basis? You don't have to answer this, I just want you to be aware that while the Bible is the largest selling book in the world, it is also the most under read book in the world and definitely the most misunderstood book. Please, don't take God's gift of His Holy Word for granted. It only has power if we read, pray and understand it. Praise Be to God. Amen.

Prayers of the People- Holy God, with the precious jewel of holy scripture, you share with us the treasure of your heart. Engrave your covenant, your hopes, your dreams, your vision, your peace, upon our hearts, that they might beat as one with yours. Holy Word, ever clear, you keep us from wandering down the wrong paths; ever longed for, you make us persistent in bringing justice to the lost and to the least; ever practical, you show us how not to misplace our hearts. Holy Wisdom: as you breathe the Word into our hearts, tutor us in faithfulness so we are trained in using the tools of justice and hope; so we are equipped to share the good news with all; so we become skilled in compassion and grace. God in Community, Holy in One, we lift our hearts to you. In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Hymn- 368- God Will take Care Of You

Benediction- may God's wonderful love be with you everywhere; May Christ Jesus feed you with his body and word; And may the Holy Spirit confirm the truth in you and fill you with God's presence always. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.