

Appropriate Action

We Americans pride ourselves on being people of action. Let's face it, we know how to get things done. We are known for efficiency and getting results in the shortest amount of time. When faced with any challenge, we study it, map out a strategy, and go to work.

The American church often follows a similar model. We can look for results in ways that reflect our culture rather than challenge it. We must never undervalue the role of planning in worship and outreach, but we must also never overlook the importance of another type of action—that of praise. The world may admire our efficiency in executing a plan; it will be utterly stumped by our praise of God. Secular culture admires itself for its achievements; the church admires God for his grace and mercy. The world fails to acknowledge that all its best accomplishments are the gifts of God. The church's praise is a rebuke to a proud and self-sufficient culture and a reminder of who deserves the real credit.

Are we rendering all praise and glory to God for the blessings we receive from his hand? Or do we fall into the trap that God warned Israel to avoid? “When you have eaten and are satisfied,” he commanded, “praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.” Otherwise, when prosperity comes, “your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God,” and you “may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me’” (Deuteronomy 8:10, 14, 17, NIV).

Are we, like our culture, taking pride in ourselves rather than in the God who alone should be our boast? Are we being seduced by the world into self-glorying? It can happen in subtle ways. Recognition by government officials, celebrities, or other influential persons could convince us that effectiveness for the gospel comes mainly through treading the corridors of power.

The world needs to see another model at work if it is to be convinced of the power of God. Let the world see us continually praising him and not glorying in man, who is a mere breath. Praise is always appropriate action for the church to take. “Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous” Praise befits the upright” (Psalm 33:1).

Praise God in his Sanctuary

Psalms 150:1

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THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 53

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 535

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou has promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 372

“Praise Waits for Thee in Zion”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 255

“O Jesus, We Adore Thee”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 37:1-7

Sermon

A WORD FOR “THE WORDS”

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 426

“Till He Come!”

Celebrating the Supper

*Hymn of Response # 305

“Arise, My Soul, Arise”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

Today. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Registration is open for the 45th Annual Women's Retreat in Folsom, CA on Friday & Saturday, October 10th & 11th. Simonetta Carr will be speaking on the theme, "Questions Women Asked." Nursing infants and young ladies 12+ are welcome to join! Cost: \$50 per attendee. Please register online www.pncnopc.org/womens-retreat.