

First Reformed Church of Cary

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 5, 2017

Tanner Lowe, Guest Speaker
Dr. Loñieta Cornwall, Music Director

Prelude

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

L. Cornwall

Congregational Concerns

Votum

Introit *"Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up, Lord! Come and quench this thirsting of my soul. Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more. Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole."*

The Approach to God

Invitation to Worship (from Daniel 9)

Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servants and to our supplication, and for your own sake, Lord, let your face shine upon your desolated sanctuary.

Incline your ear, O my God, and hear. Open your eyes and look at our desolation and the city that bears your name.

We do not present our supplication before you on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and come and do not delay!

For your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people bear your name!

***Hymn of Praise #397**

"More Love to Thee"

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is nothing good in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto men in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His name. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn #284**

"Draw Thou My Soul, O Christ"

Reception of Gifts & Offerings

Spiritual *"It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord. Standing in the need of prayer. [repeat] 1. Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord. 2. Not my mother, not my father, but it's me, O Lord. 3. Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord."*

***Doxology**

*Offertory Prayer

The Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Matthew 7:7-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Sermon

“Dangerous Prayer”

Our Response to God

Q116 Why do Christians need to pray?

A. Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us.

And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking him for them.

Q117 How does God want us to pray so that he will listen to us?

A. First we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, who has revealed himself in his Word, asking for everything he has commanded us to ask for.

Second, we must acknowledge our need and misery, hiding nothing, and humble ourselves in his majestic presence.

Third, we must rest on this unshakeable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord. That is what he promised us in His Word.

We are and will continue to be a community that loves and worships God in the Reformed tradition for the purpose of actively caring for those in need around us.

Congregational Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

*Closing Hymn #398

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

*Benediction

Response *“Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up, Lord! Come and quench this thirsting of my soul. Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more. Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole”.*

*Postlude

*Those that are able please stand

Tanner Lowe is a 3rd year M’Div student at Duke Divinity School from Huntington Beach, California. While at Duke, he has enjoyed learning Greek and Hebrew and getting to know local congregations. He is currently working at Open Table Ministry, which is a homeless ministry in downtown Durham. He has plans to get married in June and move back to California to become a college and young adult pastor. In his free time, he can be found reading, playing rugby, or chasing around his seven nieces and nephews.