**Sermon for**

**Sunday, May 17th, 2020**

**Psalm 106:1-2**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord, or fully declare his praise?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Take a moment and look around at all God has done.

Behold the sun.

Every square yard of the sun is constantly emitting 130,00 horsepower.

The equivalent of 450 8-cylinder automobile engines.

And yet our sun, as powerful as it is, is only one minor star

            in the 100 billion stars which make up our Milky Way Galaxy.

Go outside some night.

Hold a dime in your fingers and extend it arm's length toward the sky,

            allowing it to eclipse your vision,

            and you will block out fifteen million stars from your view.

Consider the earth.

Our globe's weight has been estimated at six sextillion tons (a six with 21 zeroes).

Yet it is precisely tilted at 23 degrees.

Any more or any less and our seasons would be lost in a melted polar flood.

Though our earth revolves at the rate of one thousand miles per hour,

            or 25 thousand miles per day, none of us tumbles into orbit.

Our God who stretches the sky out over the empty space and hangs the earth

upon nothing, also created an invisible band of gravity to hold us secure.

If God is able to place the stars in the sky, suspend the sky in the universe like a

curtain, do you think it remotely possible that God is able to guide our lives?

If God is mighty enough to ignite the sun, could it be he is mighty enough to light our

paths?

If he cares enough about the planet Saturn to give it rings, or Venus to make it sparkle,

            is there a chance he cares enough about each one of us to meet our needs,

            and guide our footsteps?

Why did God do all this?

Did he have to give the birds a song, and the flowers such beauty?

Was he required to put stripes on the zebra, and the hump on the camel,

a protective shell on the turtle, the purr in the kitten, and a wagging tail on a

puppy? Would we have known the difference,

            if he made the sunsets gray instead of orange and yellow and purple?

Why do stars have twinkles, and the waves snowy crests?

Why give the birds their song? Why wrap creation is such splendor?

Why did God go to such trouble to give us such gifts?

When we get discouraged, and are surrounded with loneliness, and burdened with

worries, that is the time to be still and turn to God.

It is the time to be still and listen as heaven whispers: "Do you like it? I did it just for

you."

If you were the only person on earth, the earth would look exactly the same.

If you were the sole pilgrim on this globe, God would not diminish its beauty one bit.

Because he did it all for you – and he's waiting for you to discover his gifts.

Often silence is the only proper response.

The word for such moments is reverence.

Be still and know that God is God.

Linger in the presence of God.

In the midst of our daily storms, we can make it a point to be still and set our sights on

him.

We can let God be God in our lives.

If we are still, and when we are quiet, we will discover that God is God, and He is with

us.

Then the only appropriate response is saying "Thank You".

And that is what real worship is: being grateful and saying "Thank You".

We can become confused about what worship really is.

We picture a building where we gather together. But that isn't what worship is.

We imagine music and hymns. But that isn't what worship is.

We imagine the liturgy and prayers. But that isn't what worship is.

All of this is good, and helpful.

But true worship is when we are aware that what we have been given,

            is far greater than what we can give.

Worship is the awareness that were it not for his touch,

            we would still be hobbling and hurting, bitter and broken.

Worship is the half-glazed expression on the parched face of a desert pilgrim,

            as we discover that the oasis is not a mirage, it is very real.

Worship is the "thank you" which refuses to be silenced.

Worship is a voluntary act of gratitude offered by us sinners to our Savior and Healer.

Worship is praying and asking God for everything we need, and always giving thanks.

Heaven knows no difference between Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon.

God longs to speak as clearly in our homes as he does in the sanctuary.

He longs to be worshiped when we sit at the dinner table,

            and not just when we come to his communion table.

We may go days without thinking of him,

            but there is never a moment when he is not thinking of each one of us.

Pray without ceasing.

Be constant in prayer.

Let heaven fill your thoughts.

And remember to say, "Thank You."

                                       It will make a big difference each day.

AMEN