Sermon Title: Foretaste: Worship

Date Preached: 8/17/25 Speaker: Josh Ratliff

Outline: Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:11-22; 1 Peter 2:9-12| Foretaste: Worship

- The Church as a Foretaste of the Kingdom (Eph 1:13-14; 2:11-22)
 - > The Holy Spirit in and among us is the first fruit and guarantee of the coming Kingdom.
 - > The church must be a community where we give ourselves fully to God and one another-on earth as it is in heaven.
 - Question: How is the Lord calling you to give yourself fully within the context of your church?
- Worship as the Primary Vocation of the Church (1 Pet 2:9-12)
 - ➤ Worship is "the work of the people."
 - ➤ In worship, we participate in the "means of grace."
 - > The mission of the church flows from the worship of the church.
 - ➤ Question: Have you neglected or downplayed the importance of our vocation of worship? What would it mean for you to engage/re-engage fully in our worship gatherings?
- Bottom Line: The church's worship is a witness to an unbelieving world.

Questions for reflection or discussion:

Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

- How does the Holy Spirit's presence among us serve as a foretaste of heaven? How have you seen the Holy Spirit work in the church body? What would it look like for the church to depend more intentionally on the Spirit in its services, operations, and missions?

Ephesians 2:11-22

- What makes reconciliation and unity within the church so difficult at times? Where are you seeing dividing walls within the church today? How can we be a church that moves towards reconciliation and unity, rather than one that is set on consumption (consumers) and isolation?

1 Peter 2:9-12

- Why is worship central to the church's identity and mission? What are some common misconceptions of worship you see within church culture? How might our church look different if we placed greater emphasis and importance on worship? How can we hold one another accountable to engage actively in worship instead of just spectating it?
- How have you personally experienced worship changing your heart and perspective? Outside of Sunday services, where can you begin to incorporate more worship into your life? Who can encourage or remind you of this during the upcoming week ahead?