



Rejoicing Spirits at Calvary

– March 21 2010

The theme was

“The Cross of Jesus - God’s Love for the World”

On this first full day of spring, we gathered in worship to give glory to God and to share Christ’s love. A highlight of the afternoon was recognizing Judy and Dave Curry who founded Rejoicing Spirits at Calvary five years ago, led the ministry with skill and love, and are now preparing to move to Louisiana.



As we thanked Dave and Judy–

- The new directors, Pat Swalm and Joyce Hope, thanked them for a smooth transition.
- Sister Janice recalled their dedication in starting the ministry.
- Samantha spoke eloquently for all Rejoicers about their caring manner and the meaningful worship services they helped to provide. Samantha and others have worshipped with us from the beginning.
- Pastor Bill expressed appreciation for the faithful and dedicated service throughout the last five years, and for the loving approach they took.
- Joan, Rejoicing Spirits’ musical director, shared her deep gratitude of the experiences of the music team and all volunteers.
- Many others expressed thanks for joy and kindnesses (like hospital visits).
- Josh presented a large thank you card from the Rejoicing Spirits community; and Samantha, Fred, Ben and Melvin presented gifts featuring butterflies.
- Dave and Judy shared treasured memories and heartfelt appreciation for the many blessings they received and for all whom they have met and who shared their talents for ministry.

As we sang of our faith and raised our voices in praise -

- Mariann’s piano playing, the soft sound of Jim’s guitar, and all the rejoicers’ accompanying rhythm instruments provided beautiful background sounds, while Joan served as our excellent music director.
- Each heard about his or her need to “Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart.”
- We lifted the name of the Lord on high.
- We used musical notes to remind ourselves that we are all created equal; we are one church, one body, one faith, one Lord. “Together in one Spirit,” rejoicing in His word.
- Each recalled that “Thy Word” is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”
- The meaningful words “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” encouraged us.
- In our closing song, we directed ourselves to “Shout to Lord, all the earth; let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.”

As we heard God’s word –

- T.J. read Romans 5:8, which reminds us that God proved his love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.
- Fred’s reading from 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 tells us that through Christ everything is new, and that God, through Christ, has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
- Samantha spoke the well-known words from John 3:16-17 that assure us that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.”

As we listened to Pastor Bill's message –

- We searched the room for hidden letters, which together spelled CROSS.
- Rejoicers listed many words starting with each letter that remind us of the blessings that *the* cross gives us; for example: Calvary (Church), the Resurrection, Offerings, Savior, and Salvation.
- We counted how many crosses were in the chapel: 14!
- We focused on how Christ's death and resurrection have given us many gifts that the symbol of the cross can represent.

As we prayed –

- Rejoicers and guests offered prayer requests to the Lord for intercession and prayers of thanksgiving. "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers."
- Fred led us in the Lord's Prayer.

As the service ended –

- Fred provided the dismissal.
- "Go in peace. Serve the Lord."

As we shared –

- We sang happy birthday to those celebrating in March *and* February. Ben returned to the front this month (he was twenty four in February). Pastor Bill and Lloyd were congratulated, and T.J.'s grandmother remembered.
- Many thanks to Pastor Bill for his creative message.
- During fellowship we shared a cake decorated to thank the Currys.
- Janet provided lovely tulips and daffodil bouquets to beautify the reception area.
- We thank those who set up and cleanup. Their faithful service is always and truly appreciated.

We look forward to worshipping together next month on April 18th in God's presence as a part of this Rejoicing Spirits community. May the peace of the Lord be with you.