

May 17, 2009

Opening Prayer, Sunday Morning (2nd Service)

Mighty Jehovah, Holy Yahweh, Abba Father,

Your goodness, your glory, your mercy and grace and love are wondrous and awesome. May we always celebrate and feast on these, though we don't understand them and we don't understand you. But you did not come to give us knowledge; you came to give us **life**. Help us in turn not just to live for you, but to **LIVE** for you. Help us not to follow a religion, but to live in relationship; not to keep laws, but to live by love, which has no need for laws.

We are gathered here as your adopted sons and daughters, because of your deep desire for relationship with us and to love us. You left home and pursued us to our foreign places, paying a great price to bring us into your family. *Thank you* for this gift O Lord. And we thank you for the hearts of this congregation who have acted in your image and pursued a relationship with children through adoption. We also pray again for Steve and Stephanie Codara who are in Ukraine today pursuing young Sergei to love him as their son, to adopt him into a family. Grant them success as they do for Sergei what you have done for us.

Help us today and everyday to celebrate your gift of worth, your gift of family.

Brian Shrock