

Royal Wedding and Alabama Tornadoes
May 1, 2011
Offered in Worship at Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville
Dr. Chris Caldwell, Pastor

Lord, another week has slipped past and joined all the other weeks now lying forever behind us.

Some of us spent the week in rich and robust pursuits, and we offer you our thanks.

Some of us spent the week spinning wheels and fighting currents, and we offer you our frustrations.

As your imperfect children, we all have spent parts of our week dodging your divine will and ducking your higher calling. For this, our sin, we offer you our confession.

Imprinted upon the memory of this week for all of us, Lord, are two images:

The sight of a handsome royal couple at the altar
And the sight of southern U. S. cities in ruins.

In both sights, Lord, help us to see ourselves.

In the prince and the princess help us to see ourselves – not in the projection of fairy tale fantasies – but in the blessings of everyday life:

The beauty of a love shared
The reward of vows made and kept.

In this couple so unlike us, help us to see that we are all royals.

Royals in the eyes of scripture, which calls all of us a part of a “royal priesthood,” but royals also in the eyes of most of the people on this planet, who rightfully see us as rich and privileged, because we have only what the rich in this world possess:

All the food we could possibly want to eat
X-ray machines, dentists, and bank accounts
Cars in our driveways and flight reservations in our calendars.

In the devastation of Alabama and other states, even as we pray for people in upside-down communities from the security of our right-side-up homes, help us to name in prayer what we sense in our hearts, which is that it could so easily have been us.

Remind us that even though we Americans celebrate our bond of strength as a nation, we are no less united in our vulnerability as a community. Help us to see that we are but one strong wind and a few harrowing seconds away from needing the government which we

the people created, and to which we the people are obligated, no less on April 15th than on the 4th of July.

In short, Lord, in the images of this week help us to see more clearly who we are, so we can walk more faithfully in the direction of who you want us to become:

Wealthy people wise enough and generous enough not to be impoverished by our own greed

Blessed people committed to our vows and to people we love, and who love us

Vulnerable people with faith wise enough to trust in you

Wounded healers with hearts big enough to bandage the wounds of someone else.

Amen