

WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday January 21, 2018 9:30am

Series: Underqualified—“*What will they think?*”

SONG Read Ephesians 1:18-19. *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength.* Here is a prayer: I am a part of your living body, Lord Jesus. Fill me afresh with your Spirit and open my eyes of faith so that I might understand not just in theory, but in day-to-day living, what it means to be a part of your body. Teach me to think your thoughts, to see with your eyes, to hear with your ears---to live and move and have my very existence in you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart, I want to see you, I want to see you. Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart, I want to see you, I want to see you. To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory. Pour out your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy (repeat from beginning). Holy, holy, holy (repeat twice) I want to see you. Holy, holy, holy (repeat twice) I want to see you. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best thought, by day or by night; Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light. Holy, holy, holy (repeat twice) I want to see you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Read Psalm 139: 13-18. This passage gives every human being a remarkable basis for self-worth. From the moment of conception, God is present, and through every phase of development thereafter. God presides over the mysteries of human reproduction and because he does, all life has meaning and eternal significance. Read Matthew 1:23. Here is a prayer: *Jesus, you were present when the earth was spun into orbit and the stars were ordered in the night sky. You designed the awesome workings of our planet and all that love here on it. You shared with your Father in the joy and wonder of creating everything that now exists. And yet when we were lost and fallen, you were willing to take on the frailty of our human nature and become one of us so that we might be saved. We praise and worship you, Immanuel. You are indeed “God with us”!*

Psalm 139 and Matthew 1:23

Leader: God, you take your eternal purposes and wrap them up in people. Just as you had a unique plan for Moses, so you have imprinted each of our lives with the design of destiny.

People: You have woven significance into the very fabric of who I am. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Leader: Thank you gracious Father for raising up men and women in every generation to boldly carry your Word to your people. Use each of us in our generation.

People: Lord, send forth your Word in my flesh. Because you are Immanuel, God with us, God with me, I will be your servant for whatever purpose you design.

HYMN Read Hebrews 1:1. God used many approaches to send his messages to people in Old Testament times. He spoke to Isaiah in visions, Jacob in a dream, to Abraham and Moses personally. God revealed himself by speaking through his Son, Jesus Christ---the fulfillment of God's many revelations through the centuries. God speaks to us today through his Word empowered by his Spirit. This hymn reminds us that God's Word is unchanging, and God is Alpha and Omega (first and last).

Vs1

**God has spoken by his prophets, spoken his unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil one firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, his throne eternal, God the first, and God the last.**

Vs2

**God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory, with the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word incarnate, God of God, ere time was born;
Light of Light, to earth descending, Christ, as God in human form.**

Vs3

**God is speaking by his Spirit, speaking to our hearts again;
In the ageless Word expounding God's own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations one sure faith yet standing fast:
God abides, his Word unchanging, God the first, and God the last.**

CONFESSION: In Psalm 51, David knew he had sinned and offered this confession: *Have mercy on me, O God according to your steadfast love and abundant mercy...for I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...* We have the opportunity today, to come before God and confess our sin... God delights in a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart.

Leader: Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.

People: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

WORDS OF PARDON Read 1 Peter 2:24. Christ died for our sins, in our place, so we would not have to suffer the punishment we deserve. This is called substitutionary atonement.

Leader: He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE/SERMON: Read Exodus 4:1-9. Moses was worried about how the people might respond to him. We often over-anticipate events and then panic over what might go wrong. God does not ask us to go where he has not provided the means to help. God seems to take joy in using ordinary things for extraordinary purposes. What are the ordinary things in your life—your voice, a pen, a hammer, a broom, a musical instrument? While it is easy to assume God can use only special skills, you must not hinder his use of the everyday contributions you can make. Little did Moses imagine the power his simple staff would yield when it became the rod of God.

FINAL HYMN: Ask God to give you a vision of some task that you can do for him that will require your complete reliance upon his enabling power to accomplish it well!

Vs1

**Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

Vs2

**Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.**

Vs3

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.**

SEE YOU IN WORSHIP ON SUNDAY!