

WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday February 25, 2018 9:30am

CHOIR ANTHEM

We begin our Lenten Series %Praying with Eyes Wide Open+. This long-time favorite gospel hymn is one of the first which comes to mind when thinking of prayer. A true friend loves and accepts us just as we are, stays close to us in good or in bad, and is always ready to help in time of need. We can find relief from our burdens when we turn to our Lord as a friend and spend time talking to him in prayer.

Hymn text: What a friend we have in Jesus all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise for sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer? In his arms he'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Read: I Kings 8:23, 56-61 King Solomon blessed the people and prayed for them. His prayer can be a pattern of our prayers. He had five basic requests:

1. For God's presence.
2. For the desire to do God's will in everything.
3. For help with daily needs
4. For the desire to live good and perfect lives.
5. For the ability to obey God's laws and commandments.

Leader: O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart. Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses.

People: The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us, but incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our ancestors.

HYMN

Psalm 29:2 says: %Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.+ This is a %Trinity Hymn+ offering our praise and recognition of each member of The Holy Trinity: God the Father, Jesus his Son, and the Holy Spirit. Related to our worship today, in this hymn we ask God to help us sing his name and to praise; we ask Jesus to attend our prayers; and we ask the Holy Spirit to rule in our hearts and empower our witness to Father, Son and Spirit.

1

Come, Thou Almighty King, help us Thy name to sing,
help us to praise:

Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

2

Come, Thou Incarnate Word, gird on Thy mighty sword,
our pray'r attend;
Come, and Thy people bless, and give Thy Word success:
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

3

Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour:

Thou who almighty art, now rule in ev'ry heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

4

To the great One in Three, eternal praises be
hence evermore.

His sov'reign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.

CONFESSION:

Read Romans 8:26-28 *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

Leader: Loving Father, all the fancy words in the world, expressed in eloquent prose, decorated with emotion, spoken with conviction, cannot compete with a heartfelt 'sorry' when all other words fail. There are times when we are all too aware of our limitations, conscious of sin and the distance it creates between us. Sometimes 'sorry' is all the heart can bear to say aloud.

People: It is only you who can read and understand the language of our hearts. Only you who can translate our 'sorry' into the prayer we would have prayed if we had the words within us.

Leader: Then you forgive, and having forgiven, surround us in an embrace of love, drawing us close to your heart as it was always meant to be.

People: Thank you, Loving Father, that you listen to hearts as well as voices. Thank you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Read Psalm 103:7-8 (Message) *God makes everything come out right; he puts victims back on their feet. He showed Moses how he went about his work, opened up his plans*

to all Israel. God is sheer mercy and grace; not easily angered, he's rich in love. He doesn't endlessly nag and scold, nor hold grudges forever. He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve, nor pay us back in full for our wrongs. As high as heaven is over the earth, so strong is his love to those who fear him. And as far as sunrise is from sunset, he has separated us from our sins.

Leader: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

People: We receive the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

SCRIPTURE/SERMON Read I Kings 8:29,30 and John 11:41-43 ò *Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone." They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me."* This statement from Jesus declares the intimate relation which subsists between the Father of all and the Son in Jesus. A continuous absolute communion is ever going on between heaven and earth in the heart of Jesus. His consciousness of the Father is a door opened in heaven. Jesus is our way (truth and life) to God the Father.

CLOSING HYMN

Psalm 32:8 reads: *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.* Divine guidance is the very essence of our Christian faith and belief. Scripture equates being guided by the Spirit of God with being a child of God (Romans 8:14). There must be a sincere desire and willingness to be guided. We must recognize that God has a planned path for each one of us and we must desire to follow that path wherever it leads.

1

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.**

2

**We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.**

4

**Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.**

SEE YOU SUNDAY IN WORSHIP