

# **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP AT 11**

## **Sunday April 1, 2018 (EASTER SUNDAY)**

**These notes are posted to help you take a few minutes to prepare for worship through reading the scripture and thinking about the songs!**

### **SCRIPTURE:**

Read Luke 24:1-12 The two angels asked the women why they were looking in a tomb for someone who was alive. Often we run into people who are looking for God among the dead. They study the Bible as a mere historical document and go to church as if to a memorial service. But Jesus is not among the dead--he lives! He reigns in the hearts of Christians, and he is the head of his church. Do you look for Jesus among the living? Do you expect him to be active in the world and in the church? Look for signs of his power- they are all around you.

### **SONGS:**

#### **Let God Arise**

From Psalm 63:1-3 God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him! But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy! When we ask God to arise and we are really serious about it, we're in for an exciting but very challenging experience. God is going to lead us into a spiritual encounter that will stretch our faith to the max and at times downright amaze us. Just as he did for the Israelites, when God arises in our life, he is going to lead us into territory that will be new to us. The individual or church body that wants to experience a fresh move of God has got to be willing to say, "Let God Arise." And then let him. Quit trying to hold him down. Stop putting limitations on his arising. God's nature is to rise-up. So, Let God arise! Those that do will always walk in and enjoy God's presence...provision...protection...power and purpose.

#### **Mighty to Save**

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. It's hard to fathom why a God who is able to move mountains would choose to focus His strength on redeeming the very souls who have so deeply offended Him. But this is the gospel. Though we have done nothing to merit His favor, God, full of mercy and grace, sent His only son, Jesus, to pay the debt we could never pay. He is truly mighty to save.

#### **What a Beautiful Name**

Read these scriptures:

**Philippians 2:9-11** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

**Proverbs 30:4** Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know!”

**Proverbs 18:10** The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.”

**Philippians 2:6-8** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

**Psalms 113:2-3** Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!”

### **At the Cross**

We each find ourselves faced with the power of various limitations every day. It reminds us that we often need something beyond our own strength or capability to make it. Spiritually, this is especially true since the Bible reminds us that on our own, we are slaves to our sin and shame and that we cannot find peace with God. Through the cross, however, our limitations are suddenly lifted! Through the cross, life triumphs over death! Through the cross, the Christian is set free from the bondage of sin! Through the cross, we are made righteous in Christ! As Paul writes in one of his letters to the believers at the church at Corinth, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20-21) In addition, Paul also writes to the Roman church, “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone

might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8) Sin and shame are now, indeed, powerless by the cross of Jesus Christ. Our only proper response is one of praise back to our Redeemer. As the song says, "I owe all to You, Jesus."

### **Forever (Bethel)**

*The moon and stars they wept The morning sun was dead The Savior of the world was fallen His body on the cross His blood poured out for us The weight of every curse was broken*

*One final breath He gave As Heaven looked away The Son of God was laid in darkness A battle in the grave The war on death was waged The power of hell forever broken*

*The ground began to shake The stone was rolled away His perfect love could not be overcome Now death where is your sting Our resurrected King has rendered you defeated*

*Forever, He is glorified Forever, He is lifted high Forever, He is risen He is alive He is alive We sing hallelujah We sing hallelujah We sing hallelujah The Lamb has overcome*

The song invites you to express your own desire for God's presence. The song is an emotive and poetic description of a beautiful picture of what Jesus did for us. The enemy is real and our best defense against his desire to destroy us is to cry out the victorious words of songs like "Forever" at the top of our lungs and know that our Redeemer has saved us from death, forever. No matter where you are in your walk with Jesus, this song is a salvation message that helps us remember that Jesus came to die, defeated death and rose again to set us free.

There is nothing we have been given that is more valuable than our salvation. This song moves us to reflect on just how much Jesus endured for His bride to purchase us from the grave. This song is a foretaste of that beautiful ending that we are all running towards as we finish the race set before us. Worship is about giving God our best, offering all of ourselves to Him. That is a sweet aroma of praise. He created us to worship Him.

A.W. Tozer said, "We should not find it miraculous that God is victorious. What else would He be? But we should find it miraculous that we can be victorious through Him." This song encourages me and is one of the most inspirational songs I've ever heard. What an exciting thought that all suffering and hurt will be left behind and one day glory will be revealed in us through Christ. We will be singing "Hallelujah, the Lamb has Overcome," forever. Amen to that!

***SEE YOU IN WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!  
BRING A FRIEND!***