

WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday March 11, 2018 9:30am

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC This bell anthem is from Psalm 103 which is the definitive answer to the problems so honestly enumerated in Psalm 102. David's artistic soul erupts in uninhibited praise. From the core of his being, he praises the holy name of the Lord. He has good reason to celebrate! The Lord has given David an overflowing of gifts of his grace. He has forgiven David's sins (v3). He has healed his sickness (v3). He has delivered David from the grave (v4). He has enriched David's life with gifts of loyal love and tender compassion (v4). He has satisfied David's deepest desires with good things (v5). Instead of being grounded by despair, David can now soar like an eagle. He is blessed with vigorous spiritual health which vibrates in his songs of praise. And we can be as well!

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning it's time to sing your song again. Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me let me be singing when the evening comes. Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul, worship His holy name. Sing like never before oh my soul, I'll worship your holy name. You're rich in love and you're slow to anger, your name is great and Your heart is kind. For all your goodness I will keep on singing, 10, 000 reasons for my heart to find.

PREPARATION MUSIC "Holy, holy, holy is the continual cry of those who dwell in your presence. It is their response to your magnificent glory an eternal interplay of worship and revelation. Worship will never end, because your glory is inexhaustible, O God. Eternity will be an endless discovery of who you are---the ultimate source of all that is right and good. I join my voice today to this angelic song and cry Holy, holy, holy+for you alone are holy.

Then I saw a new heaven and earth, for the first earth and heaven had passed away. And the One who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new! I am the Alpha, the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water. Death and mourning, crying, sin, shall be no more." Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty; holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come, who was and is to come! To the One who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb, to the Lamb be blessing. To the Lamb be all glory and mighty for every and ever, amen! I am the Alpha, the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water. Death and mourning, crying, pain, shall be no more." Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty; holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come, who was and is to come! Who was and is and is to come, who was and is to come! Holy.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Ephesians 3:14-19). God's love is total. It reaches every corner of our experiences. It is long--it continues the length of our lives. It is deep--it reached to the depths of discouragement, despair, and even death. It is wide--it covers the breadth of our own experience, and it reaches out to the whole

world. It is high--it rises to the heights of our celebration and elation. When you feel shot out or isolated, remember that you can never be lost to God's love.

Leader: How can we understand that which is beyond imagination? How can we know that which surpasses knowledge?

People: After all the evil we have done to you, Lord Jesus, who of us would even dare to ask for your love? Yet we are contained within its boundaries.

Leader: We will never find the outermost limits of your love for us. Your love is immeasurable, inexhaustible, inescapable, irrepressible, insatiable, irrational.

People: Lord, my deepest desire is to know your love through personal experience and in my limited capacity, to be filled from your unlimited resources until I am fully occupied by you. Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you are God.

HYMN This American folk hymn is from unknown sources who when reflecting seriously on the sacrificial gift of God's Son, respond spontaneously with amazed adoration for this wondrous love. It gives us the opportunity to reflect once again on the wondrous love of Christ in our behalf. Let us pray for the opportunity and courage to share the Lord and his wondrous love with others this coming week!

1

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

2

**When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down!
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.**

3

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

CONFESSION: Read John 15:-9-17 (msg) *"I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another*

the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father. "You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. "But remember the root command: Love one another. And when something goes wrong we are invited to confess our sins to God!

Leader: Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you love us, but we fail to love you. You have opened your heart to us, and in our pride we have spurned your care. You have given us all things, and we have squandered your gifts. We have grieved you and caused hurt to others, and we are not worthy to be called your children.

People: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Cleanse us from our sin and receive us again into your flock that we might stay close to your love and remain within the sound of your voice.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Read Psalm 91:14-16 (msg) %6 youd| hold on to me for dear life,+ says God, %d| get you out of any trouble. Id| give you the best of care if youd| only get to know and trust me. Call me and Id| answer, be at your side in bad times; Id| rescue you, then throw you a party. Id| give you a long life, give you a long drink of salvation!+

Leader: Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord; I will protect those who know my name. When they call, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them and show them my salvation.

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

SCRIPTURE/SERMON Read Psalm 102:1-10 and 25-27. *We have the freedom to go directly to God with our laments, our distresses, our complaints. We don't need to cover our real feelings or bring ourselves to a certain point of maturity first. No matter how low we feel, we can turn to God. The writer of this psalm felt rejected and cast aside because of his great troubles. Problems and heartaches can overwhelm us and cause us to feel that God has forgotten us. But, God our Creator is eternally with us and will keep all his promises, even though we may feel alone. Read Ephesians 3:14-19. The great family of God included all who have believed in him in the past, all who believe in the present, and all who will believe in the future. We are all a family because we have the same Father. He is the source of all creation, the rightful owner of everything. God promises his love and power to his family, the church.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Read Ephesians 3:14-17 msg My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite

him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

O the deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free! Rolling like a mighty ocean in its fullness over me, All beneath me, all around me is the current of his love; leading onward, leading homeward to that glorious home above. O the deep love of Jesus, sing his praise from shore to shore! How he loves us, always loves us, and he changes nevermore, always watching o'er his loved one, and he died for his own. O the deep love of Jesus lifts me to his glorious throne. O the deep love of Jesus, granting power in his name. From the treasures of his glory to his children all the same, O the deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless love, never failing, leading onward to that glorious home above. Love, deep love, my Savior's love.

CLOSING HYMN In I Corinthians 13: Paul explains what real love is. Love is more important than all the spiritual gifts exercised in the church today. Great faith and miracle-working power produce very little without love. Love makes our actions and gifts useful. Although people have different gifts, love is available to everyone!

1

**Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love; by love within, the profit soon turn strangely thin.**

2

**Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

3

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole,
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.**

SEE YOU SUNDAY IN WORSHIP