

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP AT 11

## Sunday April 8, 2018

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 Acts 3:1-10. In this passage, we see Peter and John at the Beautiful Gate, the entrance to the temple where many people passed through it on their way to worship. The lame man was begging where he would be seen by the most people. He asked for money, but Peter gave him something much better---the use of his legs. We often ask God to solve a small problem, but he wants to give us a new life and help for all our problems. Ask God for what you want, but don't be surprised when he gives you what you really need!

### SONGS:

#### *Here I Am to Worship*

We love because He first loved us—I John 4:19. Whenever we worship it always comes out of a response. We can only worship God when we see what it is that God has first done for us. Worship is our response to the overtures of love from the heart of the Father. When we take time to really consider the sacrifice Jesus took upon Himself for our sake, and allow the mystery of it to sink into our hearts, the response will be worship. Like the woman who poured out a year's wages worth of perfume over Jesus' feet, because of the new hope she had of spending a life with him in eternity, so too will we want to pour out our hearts in worship.

#### *How Great is Our God*

The more we see of God's greatness, the more reason we have to worship. The more we are active in our worship, the more we will see of God's greatness. Our Father loves to reveal more about Himself as we take the time to engage Him during our worship. As we take time in His presence, His loving heart is to disclose more about who He is.

This song pulls together two thoughts about God's greatness and God's intimacy (lion and lamb) as does Isaiah 40:10-12---*See the sovereign Lord comes with power, and his arm rules for Him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart: he gently leads those that have young. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighted the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?*

### **Our God is Greater**

Read Psalm 113:4-6 *God is higher than anything and anyone, outshining everything you can see in the skies. Who can compare with God, our God, so majestically enthroned, surveying his magnificent heavens and earth?*

This psalm begins and ends with an exhilarating call to worship. Praise the Lord, now and forevermore from the rising of the sun to its setting. The middle of the psalm has two themes: God's greatness and his grace. God is great. There is no lord like our Lord. He is unique, over all, above all. He sits enthroned on high. God is grace. From his exalted position in the heavens, he stoops to survey all of creation and takes the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. He honors the poor and seats them with the nobility. Who is like the Lord, our God? He is unique—equally at home above the heavens or at the side of the lowliest and loneliest creature.

### **Let Us Be**

Here's a verse from today's closing song: *Spirit move across this land, We invite You to move on Earth by Your sovereign hand, Spirit move across this land, We invite You to move on Earth by Your sovereign hand, Come and move on Earth by Your sovereign hand...* Pastor Shawn today begins a new sermon series on "The Holy Spirit". The gift of God's Spirit in our lives empowers us far beyond our own capacities. The gift of God's forgiveness enable us to forgive. The gift of God's mercy and grace enables us to extend the same kindness to others. God has made each of us a "storehouse" of his blessings with the Holy Spirit as the controller and distributor of the gifts he has placed in us so that he can work through us to impart those blessings to others. May it be so in our lives this week!

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