

# CRESTVIEW WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday April 22, 2018 9:30am  
MORNING WORSHIP

**PREPARATION MUSIC** Today's preparation music "Hungering In My Soul" has references to both Psalm 42 and Psalm 23. In Psalm 42 we realize as the life of a deer depends upon water, our lives depend upon God. Those who seek him and long to understand him find never-ending life. Feeling separated from God, this psalmist wouldn't rest until his relationship with God had been restored because he knew that his life depended on it! In Psalm 23, we note in Middle Eastern culture, hosts were expected to protect their guests at all cost. God offers the protection of a host even when we stand in the midst of enemies. In the final scene of this psalm, we see the believers will dwell with God. God, the perfect Shepherd and Host, promises to guide and protect us through life to bring us into his home forever. We should also note when Jesus ascended to the Father, he sent his Holy Spirit (promised in John 14 as we studied last Sunday) - "if you love me, you will obey my commandments...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper who will be with you forever. That helper is the Spirit of Truth...the Holy Spirit will teach you everything...he will remind you of everything that I have ever told you."

*O Lord, there's a hungerin' in my soul. O Lord, there's a hungerin' in my soul. O Lord, there's a hungerin' in my soul uh my soul Fill it up, Lord, and make me whole. As the deer pants for water, so my soul pants for you. sometimes I'm feelin' so cast down I don't know what to do. In the day, let me feel your love, Lord. In the night, let me hear your song. I will put my hope and faith in you to praise you my whole life long. But now I'm singin': O Lord, there's a hungerin' in my soul. O Lord, there's a hungerin' in my soul. O Lord, there's a hungerin' in my soul uh my soul Fill it up, Lord, and make me whole. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my foes. When you pour your blessings all over me, my cup will overflow, surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all my days. Then I will dwell in the house of the Lord and forever sing God's praise. But now, I'm singin': O Lord, there's a hungerin' in my soul. O Lord, there's a hungerin' in my soul. O Lord, there's a hungerin' in my soul uh my soul Fill it up, Lord, and make me whole.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** In Psalm 32 we read in verse 10: *abiding love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. So rejoice in him, all those who are his, and shout for joy, all those who try to obey him.* As we come to

worship today with our praise and adoration which move us to confess our sins, we receive forgiveness and mercy through Jesus Christ and become new creations! Our worship gives us a clean slate and ability to move forward as cleansed people, as these new creations. In 2 Corinthians 5: 18-21 we see that God brings us back to himself (reconciles us) by blotting out our sins and making us righteous. We are no longer strangers, foreigners, or enemies to God when we trust in Christ. Because we have been reconciled to God, he now gives us the privilege or encouraging others to do the same.

Leader: In Jesus Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away. Everything has become new. This newness is from God, who has reconciled us through Jesus Christ. Rejoice and be glad! Everything has become new.

**People: God of steadfast love and mercy, remind us once again that in Jesus Christ everything has become new. Too often, things seem as they have always been: old habits die hard, difficult situations linger, failures from our past linger. We look for your promised newness but cannot see it. Speak to us again of your new creation. Open our eyes to its presence in our lives. Call us forth to claim this newness, that we may be healed and made whole.**

**HYMN** A scripture for today's hymn might be 1 John 4:9 *"This is how God showed his love among us; He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."* The hymn text written by Charles Wesley touches various elements of Christian doctrine. It speaks of the love of God as expressed in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. It refers to the Wesleyan concept on entire sanctification---that any believer might live without consciously sinning and thereby find the promised rest mentioned in Hebrews 4:9. The Alpha and Omega of verse two (first and last letters of the Greek alphabet) also reflect this Wesleyan teaching, that the experiences of conversion and sanctification are thought of as the beginning of faith and the end or object of faith. The third stanza emphasizes the truth that the Spirit of God indwells the temple or body of each believer, while the fourth stanza anticipates the glorious culmination of our faith when we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

1

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
visit us with Thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all Thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

4

Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and  
praise.

**CONFESSIOIN:** Read 1 Samuel 15. Saul and his men did not destroy all the booty from the battle as God commanded. When we gloss over sin in order to protect what we have or for material gain, we aren't being shrewd; we are disobeying God's law. Selective disobedience is just another form of disobedience. When we find ourselves in this situation, the Holy Spirit leads us into confession.

Leader: Holy God, you call us to live in mystery, to walk by faith.

**People: Yet we long for plans with goals and schedules.**

Leader: It's difficult to live by faith. You call us to place our trust in you, to live according to your direction.

**People: Yet we want life to make sense from a human point of view.**

Leader: It's difficult to live by faith. You call us to feel the mystery of life, to marvel at the power of your love.

**People: Yet it's not easy to accept your promise that everything old has passed away. It's difficult to live by faith. Forgive us, holy maker of reality. Forgive us for trying to be you instead of accepting our humanity.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Read Mark 4. The four soils in Jesus's parable represent four different ways people respond to God's Word. Jesus may have been talking about different times or phases in a person's life or how we willingly receive God's message in some areas of our life and resist it in others. For example, you may respond like good soil to God's demand for worship, but like rocky soil to his demand to give to those in need. With the Holy Spirit leading us, we must strive to be like good soil in every area of our life at all times.

Leader: Fear not, for our creator, the loving maker of all reality, forgives us, and redeems us from violence and oppression. God sows the good news in tiny seeds, inviting us to tend the soil of community, and marvel as they grow.

**People: In the name of Jesus we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**SCRIPTURE/SERMON**

***Psalm 34:8-9***

***Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!***

God pays attention to those who call on him. Whether God offers escape from trouble or help in times of trouble, we can be certain that he always hears and acts on behalf of those who love him.

***2 Corinthians 5:14-17***

***For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no***

***longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!***

Comment: Christians are brand new people on the inside. The Holy Spirit gives them new life, and they are not the same any more. We are not reformed, rehabilitated or reeducated—we are new creations, living in union with Christ. We are not merely turning over a new leaf, we are beginning a new life under a new Master.

**FINAL SONG - *Spirit of the Living God***

Read Galatians 3:23-5:6.

God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts (4:6). The Spirit is not a reward we earn by being good people. The Spirit is God's gift (Titus 3:5). Paul connects the gift of the Spirit with Christ's death for us and our faith in Christ (3:13-14). We do not come to God with our religion in one hand and our morality in the other, insisting that we deserve to be blessed by Him. We look away from ourselves to Christ. ~~Nothing~~ In my hand I bring, simply to Thy Cross I cling. All pride in ourselves must be brought to Christ's Cross as we humbly pray, ~~Spirit of the living God~~, fall afresh on me, break me, melt me, mold me, fill me. God has given His Spirit to us. Let's give ourselves to Him. ~~to be~~ filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

Read Galatians 5:7-6:18.

What are we praying for when we ask God to fill us with His Spirit? We are praying ~~for~~ love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. This is ~~the~~ fruit of the Spirit (22-23). How are we to be filled with the Spirit? How does the fruit of the Spirit grow in our lives? We keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, saying in our hearts, ~~God~~ forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world (6:14). ~~Turn~~ your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. Looking to Him, let's concentrate on the one thing that really matters. living as ~~a~~ new creation (6:15).

**Vs1**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Vs2**

**Spirit of the living God, move among us all.**

**Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love.**

**Humble, caring, selfless, sharing.**

**Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!**

***SEE YOU SUNDAY IN WORSHIP***