



WORSHIP NOTES
September 20,

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC ***Depth of Mercy***

Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forbear? Me, the chief of sinners, spare? There for me the Savior stands, shows His wounds and spreads His hands: God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps, but loves me still!

Read Ephesians 2:4-5 But God still loved us with such great love. He is so rich in compassion and mercy. Even when we were dead and doomed in our many sins, he united us into the very life of Christ and saved us by his wonderful grace! Here's a prayer to begin worship: Lord, it was by your power and for your pleasure that you saved me. You crafted me into a new creation full of divine purpose and value. I have been transformed from death to life, from hopelessness to purposefulness, from ashes to beauty, and all by the power and prerogative of your grace. What can I do in response but to thank you for living in me and to seek with all my heart to live in you?

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Joel 2:12-14)

Leader: Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.

People: Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God...

Leader: for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

People: Come, let us worship the Lord.

A prayer: Thank you for loving us enough to call us to repentance. Thank you for the marvelous gift of forgiveness. Make us open and vulnerable before your throne of grace. Teach us to bare our hearts in your presence and to come to you in true humility and brokenness. Cleanse us as only you can. We are incredibly blessed to have a heavenly Father who is filled with such compassion toward us. We praise your holy name.

SONG OF PRAISE

Your Grace is Enough

Verse 1

Great is your faithfulness oh God, you wrestle with the sinners heart
You lead us by still waters and to mercy, and nothing can keep us
apart

Pre-Chorus

You remember your people, remember your children
Remember your promise, oh God

Chorus 1

Your grace is enough, your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Verse 2

Great is your love and justice God, you use the weak to lead the
strong
You lead us in the song of your salvation, and all your people sing
along

Chorus 2

Your grace is enough, heav'n reaching down to us
Your grace is enough for me.
God, I see Your grace is enough. I'm covered in your love
Your grace is enough for me

Read 2 Corinthians 12: 8-10 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to relieve me of this. But he answered me, "My grace is always more than enough for you,[a] and my power finds its full expression through your weakness." So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I'm weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me. So I'm not defeated by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I'm surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution because of my love for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God's power. The fact that God's power shows up in weak people should give us courage. If we recognize our limitations, we will not congratulate ourselves. Instead, we will turn to God to seek pathways for effectiveness. We rely on God for our effectiveness rather than on simple energy, effort or talent. Our weakness not only helps develop Christian character, it also deepens our worship---as we admit our weakness we affirm God's strength.

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON

RETURN: Joel 2: 12,13 God wants us to return to Him, and will have mercy on us when we do. His desire is to make things right in our lives and in this world.

In Joel we find:

Punishment: God is the one with whom we all must reckon-not nature, the economy or a foreign invader. We can't ignore or offend God forever. We must pay attention to his message now, or we will face his anger later.

Forgiveness: Forgiveness comes by turning from sin and turning toward God. It is not too late to receive God's forgiveness. God's greatest desire is for you to come to him.

Promise of the Holy Spirit: God is in control Justice and restoration are in his hands. The Holy Spirit confirms God's love for us just as he did for the first Christians (Acts 2). We must be faithful to God and place our lives under the guidance and power of his Holy Spirit.

CLOSING SONG

Arms Open Wide

Verse 1

**Take my life I lay it down, at the cross where I am found
All I have I give to You, oh God.**

Verse 2

**Take my hands and make them clean keep my heart in purity
That I may walk in all You have for me.**

Chorus

**Oh here I stand, arms open wide
Oh, I am Yours and You are mine.**

Verse 3

**Take my moments and my days let each breath that I take
Be ever only for you, oh God.**

Bridge

**My whole life is Yours I give it all surrendered to Your name
And forever I will pray have Your way, have Your way.**

1 Corinthians 16:23 in **The Message** reads: Our Master Jesus has his arms wide open for you. In the **NIV** it reads: The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. In 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14 Paul instructs: Be on your guard; stand

firm in the faith; be of courage; be strong; do everything in love. Today as we consider grace and mercy: this song helps us envision Jesus with his arms open wide with grace and mercy to receive us, and our arms open wide to receive the grace and mercy he offers us. Here's a prayer: Jesus, you give me all I need to fulfill Paul's commands in I Cor. 16: 13-14. I bless your name for spiritual eyes to see the battle. I thank you for the gift of faith and for the armor of God. For the courage and strength you give. I praise you. I bow before you, Lord, asking you to constantly tend your fire of love in me so that I may do none of these things from a cold and empty heart.

CLOSING MUSIC *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise; let the Redeemer's name be sung through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue. Eternal are your mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends your word; your praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; sing praise, all creatures here below; praise him above, you heav'nly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Read Psalm 117 (The Message) Praise God, everybody! Applaud God, all people! His love has taken over our lives; God's faithful ways are eternal. Hallelujah! Don Wyrzten writes in his book "A Musician looks at the Psalms" : whatever my mood today, I know the Lord is loving and faithful. Whatever adverse circumstances face today, I know the Lord is loving and faithful. Whatever rejection may come my way today, I know my Lord is loving and faithful. Whatever physical ailment I experience today, I know my Lord is loving and faithful. Whatever business reverses occur today, I know my Lord is loving and faithful. Whatever domestic tension I feel today, I know my Lord is loving and faithful. Why worry and fret? He invites me to remember that He is loving and faithful. Praise the Lord! A closing prayer: Lord, I may be unpredictable and moody, but you can be counted on to be loving and faithful...no matter what!

SEE YOU IN WORSHIP ON-SITE or ON-LINE THIS SUNDAY!