Taiwan Harmony Friends Church

Worship Service *Oct, 11 2026*

Prelude

Invocation: In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, we worship together on this Sunday Morning.

For Chinese Pinyin lyrics, please scan:

✝ 我要讚美耶和華 I Want To Praise The LORD

♫ I want to praise the Lord,
praise Him in His sanctuary
Praise and praise Him for His acts of power
Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise Him with the harp and lyre,
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD

✝ 耶和華是應當稱頌的 Blessed Be the Lord (Yahweh)

♫ The heavens are Yours, the earth is too,
All creation rejoices because of You.
Everything made lifts up its voice,
To praise Your name, to shout and rejoice!

Chorus
(Blessed be the Lord, Yahweh we sing,
With tambourines, dancing, and strings!)
You delight in Your people's praise,
A new song rises in Your holy place. ( )
How blessed the people who shout with joy,
They rejoice in Your name all day long!

♫ My lips declare that God is great,
Your mighty power makes foes retreat.
Salvation is my robe and song,
In joyful praise, I am made strong.

✝ 讓我靈自由 Free my soul

♫ Free my soul for I could worship You.
Free my soul for I could praise You.
Weight off my heart, let the salvation flow.
Free my soul for I could worship You.

Responsive Reading: 77:11-15, 19-20

11 I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
12 I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds."
13 Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God?
14 You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.
15 With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
19 Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.
20 You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Praise

✝ 你當歡欣 Rejoice the Lord is King

♫ Rejoice the Lord is King
Your Lord and King adore
Rejoice give thanks And sing
And triumph evermore

(Refrain)

♫ Lift up your heart Lift up your voice
Rejoice again I say rejoice

♫ Jesus the Savior reigns
The God of truth and love
When He had purged our stains
He took His seat above

♫ Rejoice in glorious hope
Jesus the judge shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice
The trump of God shall sound rejoice

Special Music

✝ 神仍運行組曲 God Is Still Working — Medley

♫ [God is working, God is working
Still working in the hearts of His people
He never rests, He never sleeps
God is working, God is working] ×2

♫ Do you know the Holy Spirit is working here?
Can you see God's great love revealed in everyone?
As we praise Him with all our hearts, the King of kings, we know He has done great things among us.

♫ [God is working, God is working
Still working in the hearts of His people
He never rests, He never sleeps
God is working, God is working]

♫ Some people say God can no longer rule over all things
Others say He can no longer work in people's hearts
But I have seen amazing lives completely changed, because Jesus saves sinners through His wonderful saving grace.

♫ [God is working, God is working
Still working in the hearts of His people
He never rests, He never sleeps
God is working, God is working]
God is working, God is working.

♫ Let all honor, glory, and praise be given to Jesus
Honor and glory, honor and glory belong to Him, honor and glory belong to Him.

♫ (Come into God's presence,
with thankful hearts we shout to Him,
we shout to Him) x2
Give Him all the glory, honor, and power.
Jesus is above every name.

♫ (Come into God's presence,
with thankful hearts we shout to Him,
we shout to Him) x2
Give Him all the glory, honor, and power.
Jesus is above every name.
Give Him all the glory, honor, and power.
Jesus is above every name. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Joshua 5:13–15

13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up
and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn
sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked,
"**Are you for us** or **for our enemies?**"
14 "**Neither,**" he replied, "but as commander of the
army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell
facedown to the ground and worshiped, and asked
him, "What message does my Lord have for his
servant?"
15 The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take
off your **sandals**, for the place where you are standing
is **holy**." And Joshua did so.

Sermon: Laughing Proudly at Life's Challenges

~ Pastor Hsu

Moses was his mentor, and Joshua had just taken over as leader. His mentor was gone, and a great enemy stood before him.

God commanded him to cross the river. The water stopped as soon as their feet touched it. They set up stones as a memorial, and circumcision removed their shame.

A great battle was about to begin. Joshua looked up and suddenly saw a man with his sword already drawn.

Joshua stepped forward and shouted, "Are you friend or enemy?

Who are you? Are you here to challenge us, or to help us?" The tension was high, and life and death were only a moment away.

I. Who Has Come?

1. Not an Enemy:

He was not an enemy and did not belong to the enemy's camp.

We may misunderstand God and think, "God is not pleased with me. He is standing against me to discipline and punish me."

We may think, "There is no grace for me and no joy for me." Doubts fill our hearts: "Is the Lord really fair?"

2 Chronicles 27:2 He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father Uzziah had done, but unlike him he did not enter the temple of the Lord. The people, however, continued their corrupt practices.

Malachi 1:2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?' "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob,

Luke 15:29 "But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.'"

2. Not a Friend:

He was not a friend or someone who came to fight on our side.

We may misunderstand God and think, "The Lord should listen to me. He should stand behind me and help me succeed."

We expect Him to fulfill our wishes and give us everything we want. When things do not go our way, we complain and lose faith.

Hebrews 13:6 "So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?'"

1 Samuel 4:3 "When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, 'Why did the LORD bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? Let's bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies.'"

Genesis 4:5 "But on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast."

3. The Lord Is the Commander:

He is neither our enemy nor our friend. He is the Commander. He stands before us and leads us to victory!

It is not about the Lord listening to me; it is about me listening to the Lord. It is not me being in charge; it is the Lord who is in charge.

It is not my battle; it is the Lord's battle.
It is not my decision; the Lord decides the victory.

It is not my will; it is the Lord's will.
These are not my people; they are God's children.

Acts 5:38–39 "Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.
39 "But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

Romans 11:34-36 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"
35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?"
36 "For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."

John 3:28-30 "You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.'
29 "The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.
30 "He must become greater; I must become less."

II. The Battlefield Is Holy Ground

The battle was about to begin. Why did Joshua have to take off his sandals?

1. Holiness:

Leave the ways of the world behind, put aside the dust of the journey, cleanse yourself, bow down, and enter the holy ground.

Without holiness, no one can see the Lord. We are precious vessels, ready to be used by the Lord.

People want victory, but God calls us to holiness.

People look at the work, but God looks at the person doing the work!

Exodus 3:5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Isaiah 6:5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Luke 5:8 "When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!'"

Acts 22:11 "My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me."

2. Worship:

Joshua took off his sandals and worshiped, bowing before the Lord. Before the great battle, worship came first.

Moses lifted up his hands on the mountain, and Israel won the battle below.

The Israelites marched around the city in silence, and the trumpets brought victory.

Daniel prayed and gave thanks before the lions' den. The worship team led the army, and the wooden dogs praised the Lord!

Exodus 17:11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.

Joshua 6:8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them.

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

2 Chronicles 20:21 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."

Acts 16:24-25 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.
25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

3. Obedience:

Stop making our own plans and wait for God's revelation. I am not the commander; the Lord is the Commander.

Focus on what we can control, and trust God with everything else. Stop worrying. Stop exhausting ourselves with inner struggles.

The battlefield becomes holy ground when we kneel.

Challenges become blessings through prayer!

1 Samuel 17:45 "David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.'"

Joshua 1:5 "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Responsive Hymn

✝ 大聲呼喊 **Shout Aloud**

♫ Lord, we worship You,
the trumpet of victory sounds.
Lord, we praise You,
Your victorious army has gone forth.
You show Your loving kindness and keep Your promises, helping me understand Your heart.

♫ Your Word, every single word,
I will do my best to obey.
Shout aloud, until the whole world is shaken.
Your Word is my strength,
making me brave and strong.
Shout aloud, shout to all the nations.
The Lord God leads us to victory.

Announcement

1. **Discover My Superpowers — Eight Intelligences Workshop"** will be held at B1 for three consecutive weeks, starting November 7, at 1:30 PM. Pastor Dong's wife and her team will help brothers and sisters discover their abilities and personal strengths, and find their future learning direction and career path. Young people who are still studying or already working are welcome to join. Please scan the QR code on page 6 of the church bulletin to register. The deadline is October 18.

2. This year's Celebration Sunday theme is **"Feed My Sheep — Thank You, Mentors, for Carrying on the Love."** It will be held on October 25 at 10:00 AM in Hall B2 of the Taipei Silicon Valley International Conference Center. Brothers and sisters are invited to come together through worship songs, vision sharing, and the message of truth to reflect on the Lord's grace and respond to His will.

3. Registration is now open for the **Fall Happiness GOGO Courses**, running for seven weeks from October 27 to December 8. Seven courses are offered this term. Brothers and sisters are encouraged to invite their friends and family members who do not yet believe in Jesus to join. For course details and registration, please scan the QR code.

4. This week's unified Bible reading schedule is **Acts 17–19**. You are welcome to scan the QR code on page 1 of the church bulletin to subscribe to the *Heavenly Father's Letter* e-newsletter. You can also listen to Pastor Hsu's program, *A Clear Mind — The Book of Zechariah*, on Good News Radio.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction

May the grace from Lord Jesus, the love from our heavenly Father and the guiding of Holy Spirit be with all of our brothers & sisters from now on and forevermore.

Today's worship concludes here for now. Brothers and sisters, please feel free to communicate with one another before dismissing. Emmanuel, may God bless you all.

❖ **This Week's Gatherings**

~ Welcome to invite new friends of all ages to join us

For All Friends

• *Beautiful Life Celebration Worship*
Sun 8:30 AM / 4F Sanctuary
Sun 10:30 AM / B1 Sanctuary

• Adult Sunday School: Sun 9:30 AM

• Kingdom Revival Prayer Meeting:
Mon 7:10 PM / 4F Sanctuary