



☞ Prelude	Choir
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☞ **Prelude**

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

† 我要唱耶和華的大慈愛

I will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord

- ♪ I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever
I will sing I will sing
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord
- ♪ With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness Thy faithfulness
With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness to all generations
O how He loves you and me!

† 主祢崇高 **Be Exalted**

- ♪ Oh, Lord! My heart will be stead-fast in You.
I will praise You with all of my soul.
Oh, Lord! My heart will be stead-fast in You.
Lift up my hands, to Your ho-ly place.
- ♪ Be e-xal-ted a-bove all hea-vens.
For You've done great things for all Your peo-ple.
Let Your glo-ry be a-bove the earth.
All that I am, ne-ver ceases to re-joyce in You

† 當我看到主祢的聖潔

When I Look Into Your Holiness

- ♪ When I look into Your holiness
When I gaze into Your loveliness
When all things that surround become shadows
In the light of You
When I've found the joy of reaching Your heart
When my will become enthroned in Your love
When all things that surround become shadows
In the light of You
- ♪ I worship You I worship You
The reason I live is to worship You
- ♪ No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

☞ **Responsive Reading: Psalm 119**

- 121 I have done what is right and good. Don't let me fall into the hands of those who want to hurt me.
- 122 Promise to be good to me, your servant. Don't let those proud people do harm to me.
- 123 I have worn out my eyes looking for your help, waiting for you to save me, as you promised.
- 124 Show your faithful love to me, your servant. Teach me your laws.
- 125 I am your servant. Give me wisdom to understand your rules.
- 126 Lord, it is time for you to do something. The people do what is against your teachings.
- 127 I love your commands more than gold, more than the purest gold.
- 128 I carefully obey all your commands. So I hate anything that leads people the wrong way.

☞ **Praise**

- † 信徒齊來頌主 **Come, Christians, Join to Sing**
- ♪ Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!
- ♪ Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend; To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!
- ♪ Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen! On heaven's blissful shore,
His goodness we'll adore, Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

☞ **Special Music**

- † 永遠的盼望 **Hope For All To Tomorrows**
- ♪ If you seek me with all your heart,
You will find me.

When you come to me in prayer, I will hear you.
♪ If you seek me with all your heart,
You will find me.
When you call upon my name, I will hear you.

Refrain:

For I know the plans I have for you,
Plans for your good and not for harm,
to give you a future (with hope)*2
for all your tomorrows. Ah~
♪ If you seek me with all your heart,
You will find me.
When you come to me in prayer, I will hear you.
When you call on me and come to me in prayer,
(I will hear you)*4 and (you will prosper)*2

Refrain

A future with hope, Hope for all tomorrows.
(I will give you a future with hope.)*2
Hope for all tomorrows

☞ **Scripture Reading:**

Hosea 2

19 And I will **make you my bride forever**. I will make you my bride **with** goodness and justice and **with** love and mercy.

20 I will **make you my faithful bride**. Then you will really know the Lord.

21 And at that time I will answer.” This is what the Lord says. “I will speak to the skies, and they will give rain to the earth.

22 The earth will produce grain, wine, and oil, and they will meet **Jezreel’s** (the name given to the first son of the prophet Hosea. Hebrew meaning: **May God Give Seed**) needs.

23 I will plant her for myself in the land; I will **show my love** to the one I called ‘**Not my loved one.**’ I will say to those called ‘**Not my people,**’ ‘**You are my people**’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

☞ **Sermon: When my families break my heart**
---Pastor Hsu

To many of us, hurts inflicted on us by our families are the deepest damage we may face.

I. What had hurt the most turned into the most loved. 【**Hos 1:2** This was the Lord’s first message to Hosea. The Lord said, “Go, marry a prostitute who has had children as a result of her prostitution. Do this because the people in this country have acted like prostitutes—they have been unfaithful to the Lord.”】

The Lord commanded prophet Hosea to marry a prostitute who has had children as a result of her prostitution; his wife, along with the three children born to him profoundly tormented Hosea.

1. What had been meant to be a punishment turned out to be a blessing. 【**Hos 1:** ⁴The Lord said to Hosea, “Name him Jezreel, because soon I will punish the family of Jehu for the people he killed at Jezreel Valley. Then I will put an end to

the kingdom of the nation of Israel. ... ¹¹Then the people of Judah and the people of Israel will be gathered together. They will choose one ruler for themselves, and their nation will be too large for the land. Jezreel’s day will be great!

2:¹⁴“So I, the Lord, will speak romantic words to her. I will lead her into the desert and speak tender words. ¹⁵There I will give her vineyards. I will give her Achor Valley as a doorway of hope. Then she will answer as she did when she came out of the land of Egypt.” ... 22-23; **Psm 84:6** They travel through Baca Valley, which God has made into a place of springs. Autumn rains form pools of water there.】

The Lord named Hosea’s first son **Jezreel** suggesting that **the Lord will scatter people of Israel**, because the nation had been unfaithful to the Lord and people acted unrightfully. The Lord will judge the Israelites!

On the great day of the Lord’s judging, HE will show mercy on his chosen people; the Lord promises to bless the skies, the earth, grain, wine, oil, and the Israelites — God will do the planting, and **God Give Seeds!** The deserted land will receive comfort, the valley of trouble will become a gateway of hope, and the place of weeping will turn into a place of springs!

2. The unloved will be loved. 【**Hos 1:6** Then Gomer became pregnant again and gave birth to a daughter. The Lord said to Hosea, “Name her Lo-Ruhamah, because I will not show mercy to the nation of Israel anymore, nor will I forgive them. **2:1**” Then you will say to your brothers, ‘You are my people,’ and you will say to your sisters, ‘He has shown mercy to you.’” ... **23.**】

Hosea’s daughter was initially named **Lo-Ruhamah** at birth, reflecting the Lord’s wrath against the people without mercy; after Hosea gave birth to the second son the Lord turned from his purpose of sending punishment on his people and renamed Hosea’s daughter **Ruhamah**. God renewed his relationship and love for the people!

3. Earlier ‘not God’s people, and I am not your God’, later became ‘children of the Living God’. 【**Hos 1:** ⁹Then the Lord said, “Name him Lo-Ammi, because you are not my people, and I am not your God.” ¹⁰ “In the future the number of the people of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which you cannot measure or count. In the same place that God told them, ‘You are not my people,’ he will call them ‘children of the Living God.’; **2:23**】

God gave Hosea’s third son the name ‘**Lo-Ammi**’ suggesting that ‘they are not God’s people, and HE is not their God’

Consider how is our familial relations? What do I think of myself? Am I worthy of being God's heir?

God later called the people of Israel and Juda **Ammi**, meaning that HE accepts the people as His and the people should regard Him as their God!

If you now have unstable familial relations, make all efforts to reinstate your marriage relationship with your spouse, your parenthood with your children, then you may regain your dignified status, and a prodigal son may return home!

How can we make a claim for such a big blessing?

II. The path to receiving solace:

1. Receive God's love: **[Hos 2: 19-20; 14-15]**

Even though we have acted unfaithfully toward the Lord and surrendered our will to sinful deeds, the Lord still eagerly anticipates for our turning back to Him!

- 1) **Righteousness and fairness:** righteousness, fairness, and uprightness, God does not invalidate His covenant with us and HE keeps on urging us to do the same;
- 2) **Kindness and mercy:** God loves us with his everlasting love and kindness;
- 3) **Faithfulness:** Firm faithfulness and steadfast love;
- 4) **Eternity:** God's love for us does not change, it is symbolized through the cross and is assured through the Holy Spirit!

The Lord counsels our direction and lead us our way, and HE bestows on us with abundant grace! Stop relying on your own efforts when you are confronted with challenges in emotions, crisis of familial relationships, don't request your families to do anything but simply fix your eyes on the grace the Lord has in store for me! Simply enjoy God's love through the cross!

The knack to receiving the Lord's love: **observe what Jesus had done for me!**

2. Wholeheartedly love the Lord: **[Hos 2:20, 15,**

16This is what the Lord says. "At that time you will call me 'My husband.' You will not call me 'My Baal.]"

The Lord wants us to be His bride, we ought to actively make all efforts to **know the Lord** and accept Him as the only Lord!

We have received God's comfort, and we should **respond actively by singing to the Lord** and responding with love in our actions towards God!

To us, the Lord used to be '**Baal**', meaning my master; now HE is our '**Ishi**', meaning my husband, and HE is linked with us through life.

Why do some people fail to experience God's love? Unable to appreciate love expressed by their families? It is impossible for anyone to experience love without giving!

We ought to be mindful of living our life to please God by pursuing God's kingdom and righteousness through our wholehearted services!

The knack to experiencing the Lord is **knowing Him, be mindful of Him, and serving Him!**

3. Keep our hearts fixed in loving others: **Hos 1:2,4,6,9;**

[Hos 3:1 Then the Lord said to me again, "Gomer has many lovers, but you must continue loving her. Do this because it is an example of the Lord's love for Israel. He continues to love them, but they continue to turn to other gods, and they love to eat those raisin cakes.]"

The Lord gave word to the prophet to marry a prostitute as a symbolic demonstration of God's love for the mankind! It is not easy to love a morally crooked wife, the motive of the prophet's love for a prostitute originated from his love for the Lord. The Lord regularly spoke to and comforted the prophet in the same way HE **comforts us** all!

The journey of loving others is full of **hope!** Hosea lived in an age of dark times yet he foresaw the Israelites' renaissance God was about to bring to God's chosen people, he taught people to turn back to the Lord with fear and look up to the Lord's mercy till the arrival of the Lord's Kingdom!

Hos 1:10-11, 2:23,

[Hos 3:5 After this, the people of Israel will come back and look for the Lord their God and for David their king. In the last days they will come to honor the Lord and his goodness. **Jude 1:** ²⁰But you, dear friends, use your most holy faith to build yourselves up even stronger. Pray with the help of the Holy Spirit. ²¹Keep yourselves safe in God's love, as you wait for the Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy to give you eternal life.]"

Persist in loving others and you will have the Lord's solace! All hope may be yours in the power of the Holy Spirit!

☞ Responsive Hymn

† 我心等候祢 **My heart waits for You**
My heart waits for You, I look up and see
This faith beyond all my difficulty
My spirit steadfast, obedient to Your will
Your holy name brings my soul a thrill

I choose to obey You. I choose to trust in You.
I choose to rejoice in You, shouting and praising
Your name.

Dear Holy Spirit, walk with me each day
May I bring You glory, in every way

☞ Announcement

1. The theme of Beautiful Life Sharing Series this week is "Brave to Love – Sister Jovina Wong's Life Story" (Part I). Please invite your non-believing friends and family to watch it.
2. The new season of Adult Sunday School physical courses will begin this morning (4/16), and the online courses started last Wednesday (4/12). Brothers and sisters are welcome to sign up and participate, and strive to know God.
3. Good News Radio program "Clear Heart" will broadcast Pastor Hsu's preaching on 《Book of Romans》 from 4/19 (Tue) to 5/4 (Wed). Please visit the website to listen to the program.
4. World Vision will be promoting the Chosen-Uganda Child Sponsorship Program. An unveiling party will be held on the first floor after the prayer meeting on April 17th (Monday). Sponsors are invited to attend and collect letters from the children.
5. The Bible Reading Plan this week is **Psalm 13-15**. Hope we all root our faith in God's words.

☞ Offertory

☞ Baptism

☞ 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, our worship service together is coming to an end. Emmanuel! May our good Lord bless you!