



☞ Prelude	Choir
☞ Invocation	Presider
☞ Praise	Congregation
☞ Responsive Reading	Congregation
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☞ **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:



☞ 在主愛裡 **In God's Love**

♪ I worship You cause You first love me
only worship You
I often worship Lord, my God only worship You
♪ [God's love God's love Be with Him in His love]x2

☞ 這是耶和華所定日子 **This is the Day**

♪ [For this is the Day the Lord has made
All the people sing and shout Your praise
The enemy has been defeated
For Your glory we shout for victory] x2
♪ You're my strength, my God my King
In You my hope is found
You are the author of my song
You are my saving grace
♪ We'll march through the nations
Sharing good news, lifting Your mighty name
We raise a banner of victory
Give thanks to You, my God and King!

☞ 耶穌超乎萬名之名

Jesus, Name Above All Names

♪ Jesus, Name above all names
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord!
Emmanuel, God is with us Blessed Redeemer,
Living Word

☞ **Responsive Reading: Psalm 148:1-6, 11-13**

1 Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.
2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.
5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created,
6 and he established them for ever and ever— he issued a decree that will never pass away.
11 kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,
12 young men and women, old men and children.
13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

☞ **Praise**

☞ 常念主愛 **Thy Love**

♪ Day and night do I think of thy love, oh ,Lord.
It's high and It's depth oh how great.
Pouring down like a great waterfall oh, Lord
Thy love doth my being elate.
Thou didst come down from hea'n for love's sake
oh, Lord
Forsaking thy glory and thy throne.
Thou wast born son of man under Law oh, Lord
Without any wealth called thine own.
♪ Like a savory feast is thy love oh, Lord
My whole being to satisfied.
How I thank thee for taking my place oh, Lord
To endure the cross and to die.
Thou hast rescue me from sin and death oh, Lord
Thy blood washed my heart white as snow.
Thou hast send thy spirit to help me oh, Lord.
That I might please thee here below
♪ Day and night do I long for thy home oh, Lord,
That thou art preparing for me.
O, what joy to walk on streets of gold oh, Lord
No more pain and tears will I see.
To abide in thy grace and thy love oh, Lord
What blessing divine beyond compare.
For thy love is the same to the end oh, Lord.
Thy glory is seen everywhere.

Course:

♪ All my love is poured out at thine feet oh, Lord,
None can satisfy my heart so well.
Most delightful and precious art thou oh, Lord.
I love in thine bosom to dwell.

☞ **Special Music**

☞ 同來向主歌唱 **O Come, Let Us Sing**

♪ { [O come, let us sing with joy to the Lord,
(O come)*2]*2 Come, bow down before Him,
kneel and adore Him and praise Him
with music and song. []*2 }*2

♪ For He is Holy, Shepherd, Creator and King.
 For He is worthy. Forever His praises I'll sing.

♪ [O come, let us sing with joy to the Lord,
 (O come)*2]*2 Come, bow down before Him,
 kneel and adore Him and praise Him
 with music and song.

♪ Sing unto God the creator, He made the sea and
 the land. Sing unto God the Almighty.
 (We are the work of His hands) *2

♪ [O come, let us sing with joy to the Lord,
 (O come)*2]*2 Come, bow down before Him,
 kneel and adore Him and praise Him
 with music, and praise Him with music and song.

🔗Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 24:5-7

5 The Lord, the God of Israel, said, “The people of Judah **were taken from** their country. Their enemy **brought them to** Babylon. Those people will be like **these good figs**. I will be **kind to** them.

6 I will **protect** them. I will **bring them back** to the land of Judah. I will **not tear them down**—I will **build them up**. I will not pull them up—I will **plant them** so that they can grow.

7 I will make them want to **know** me. They will know that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will do this because the prisoners in Babylon will **turn to me** with their whole hearts.”

Jeremiah 29:11-12 I say this because I know the plans that I have for you.” This message is from the Lord. “**I have good plans for you. I don't plan to hurt you.** I plan to give you **hope and a good future.**

12 Then you will **call my name**. You will **come to me and pray** to me, and I will **listen** to you.

Sermon: Dawn in the Dark (Part III):

The Meaning of Suffering

– Pastor Hsu

I. Suffering is God's Protection for Us

Jeremiah 24:1-8 The Good Figs and the Bad Figs

1 The Lord showed me these things: I saw two baskets of figs arranged in front of the Temple of the Lord. (I saw this vision after King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took Jehoiachin[a] as a prisoner. Jehoiachin, the son of King Jehoiakim, and all his important officials were taken away from Jerusalem. They were taken to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar also took away all the carpenters and metalworkers of Judah.)

2 One basket had very good figs in it, the kind that ripen early in the season. But the other basket had rotten figs. They were too rotten to eat.

3 The Lord said to me, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” I answered, “I see figs. The good figs are very good, and the rotten figs are very rotten. They are too rotten to eat.”

4 Then the message from the Lord came to me.

5 The Lord, the God of Israel, said, “The people of Judah were taken from their country. Their enemy

brought them to Babylon. Those people will be like these good figs. I will be kind to them.

6 I will protect them. I will bring them back to the land of Judah. I will not tear them down—I will build them up. I will not pull them up—I will plant them so that they can grow.

7 I will make them want to know me. They will know that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will do this because the prisoners in Babylon will turn to me with their whole hearts.”

8 But the Lord also says, “I will treat King Zedekiah of Judah like those figs that are too rotten to eat. Zedekiah, his high officials, all those who are left in Jerusalem, and those people of Judah who are living in Egypt will be like those rotten figs.

1 Peter 4:1-2 Changed Lives

1 Christ suffered while he was in his body. So you should strengthen yourselves with the same kind of thinking Christ had. The one who accepts suffering in this life has clearly decided to stop sinning.

2 Strengthen yourselves so that you will live your lives here on earth doing what God wants, not the evil things that people want to do.

During this time, the nation was on the brink of destruction, and the king of Judah was taken captive. Is being taken captive a good or bad thing?

What may seem like suffering in human eyes is actually God's care, concern, and blessing, leading to our benefit!

God disciplines us out of love, ensuring our well-being. Enduring minor hardships prevents major calamities.

Losing friendships, opportunities, health... enduring physical suffering severs our connection to sin.

II. Suffering is God Sending Us - Jeremiah 24:5

In human eyes, they were taken away from their homeland; but in God's plan, it was God sending them to the place He wanted them to be, to fulfill the mission He assigned! Three instances of being taken away:

First time: During the reign of King Jehoiakim, Daniel was sent to the palace of a foreign king to proclaim a message and serve the Lord.

Second time: During the reign of King Jehoiachin, Ezekiel was sent to the riverside of the Chebar in Babylon to serve the Lord.

Third time: During the reign of King Zedekiah, Jeremiah proclaimed the message of the Lord among the remnant of the captives.

The temple vessels were taken away, and it was with God's sending! (2 Chronicles 36:18; Esther 1:7, 11)

2 Chronicles 36:18 Nebuchadnezzar carried all the things in God's Temple away to Babylon. He took all

the valuable things from the Lord's Temple, from the king, and from the king's officials.

Esther 1:7, 11 This is what happened during the time when Xerxes was king. Xerxes ruled over the 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia.

11 He commanded them to bring Queen Vashti to him wearing her royal crown. She was to come so that she could show her beauty to the leaders and important people. She was very beautiful.

Joseph was sold by his brothers, but it was God sending him to Egypt! (**Genesis 45:5**)

Genesis 45:5 Now don't be worried. Don't be angry with yourselves for what you did. It was God's plan for me to come here. I am here to save people's lives.

The early church faced persecution, scattering them to spread the gospel! (**Acts 8:1, 4**)

Acts 8:1, 4 Saul agreed that the killing of Stephen was a good thing. Some godly men buried Stephen and cried loudly for him.

4 They were scattered everywhere, and in every place they went, they told people the Good News.

Paul was imprisoned, but it was to preach the gospel! (**Acts 20:23-24, 28:31; Philippians 1:13**)"

Acts 20:23-24 I know only that in every city the Holy Spirit tells me that troubles and even jail wait for me.

24 I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I finish my work. I want to finish the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to do—to tell people the Good News about God's grace.

Acts 28:31 He told them about God's kingdom and taught them about the Lord Jesus Christ. He was very bold, and no one tried to stop him from speaking.

Philippians 1:13 All the Roman guards and all the others here know that I am in prison for serving Christ.

III. God's True Peace Given in Suffering

1. God's Promise of Peace - **Jeremiah 24:6, 29:10**

Jeremiah 24:6 I will protect them. I will bring them back to the land of Judah. I will not tear them down—I will build them up. I will not pull them up—I will plant them so that they can grow.

Jeremiah 29:10 This is what the Lord says: "Babylon will be powerful for 70 years. After that time, I will come to you people who are living in Babylon. I will keep my good promise to bring you back to Jerusalem.

Those who were taken away will return; God will rebuild and replant them, fulfilling His promise!

When the time is fulfilled, God will bring His people back to this land!

Everything that suffering has taken away will be restored for us by God in the kingdom of heaven!"

2. God Gives a New Heart - **Jeremiah 24:7; 1 Peter 4:13-14**

Jeremiah 24:7 I will make them want to know me. They will know that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will do this because the prisoners in Babylon will turn to me with their whole hearts."

1 Peter 4:13-14 But you should be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings. You will be happy and full of joy when Christ shows his glory.

14 When people say bad things to you because you follow Christ, consider it a blessing. When that happens, it shows that God's Spirit, the Spirit of glory, is with you.

Through suffering, we gain understanding of God's heart, renew our covenant with Him, and wholeheartedly turn to God!

Suffering enables us to clearly grasp God's intentions; the Spirit of God's glory dwells within us. In moments of God's glory being revealed, we experience joy and happiness!

3. God Grants Peaceful Thoughts - **Jeremiah 29:11**

Jeremiah 29:11 I say this because I know the plans that I have for you." This message is from the Lord. "I have good plans for you. I don't plan to hurt you. I plan to give you hope and a good future.

After going through suffering, we understand that God holds the intention to grant us peace!

As we wait upon God, we come to realize that the peace God gives surpasses our circumstances, what we see, this earthly life, and the present moment!

IV. Overcoming Hardship Through Prayer

1. Prayer of Faith - **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

Jeremiah 29:11-13 I say this because I know the plans that I have for you." This message is from the LORD. "I have good plans for you. I don't plan to hurt you. I plan to give you hope and a good future. ¹² Then you will call my name. You will come to me and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will search for me, and when you search for me with all your heart, you will find me.

Wholeheartedly pray and seek God, and He will answer; diligently seek God, and He will be found by us!

2. Prayer and Waiting - Jeremiah 29:10

Jeremiah 29:10 This is what the Lord says: "Babylon will be powerful for 70 years. After that time, I will come to you people who are living in Babylon. I will keep my good promise to bring you back to Jerusalem.

When the time is right, God will fulfill His promises. Waiting on God's specific actions is itself a form of prayer.

Prayer doesn't change God; it calls on God to change me!

3. Praying for the City - Jeremiah 29:7-9; Ezekiel 22:30; Jeremiah 5:1

Jeremiah 29:7-9 Also, do good things for the city I sent you to. Pray to the Lord for the city you are living in, because if there is peace in that city, you will have peace also."

8 The Lord All-Powerful, the God of the people of Israel, says, "Don't let your prophets and those who practice magic fool you. Don't listen to the dreams they have.

9 They are telling lies, and they are saying that their message is from me. But I didn't send it." This message is from the Lord.

Ezekiel 22:30 "I asked the people to change their lives and protect their country. I asked people to fix the walls. I wanted them to stand by those holes in the wall and fight to protect their city. But no one came to help!

Jeremiah 5:1 The Evil of the People of Judah The Lord says, "Walk the streets of Jerusalem. Look around and think about these things. Search the public squares of the city. See if you can find one good person, one who does honest things and who searches for the truth. If you find one good person, I will forgive Jerusalem.

Reject the deception of false prophets, obey God even in exile, and pray for the well-being of the city!

God expects us to bless the world and the city, interceding and praying in the midst of brokenness.

☞ Responsive Hymn

只要有祢在我左右 **If My God Is With Me**

♪ Open up my eyes, Let me see Your angel armies
Though my enemies
Are closing in I still trust in You
Lord You are my strength,
You alone are my salvation
Your right hand in glorious power will cover me
Singing "If my God is with me,

whom then shall I fear?"

With Your spirit I will keep believing
I'll never let You go

Oh, for if my God is with me,
whom then shall I fear?

There is no one like You now or ever

You are worthy, king of glory

♪ Who can stop us, or be against us

(I'm the chosen one of God*2)

☞ Announcement

1. The theme of Beautiful Life Sharing Series this week is "Blossoming Life - The Life Stories of the Hu Sisters' (Part 3)". Please invite your non-believing friends and family to watch it.
2. Next Sunday (8/27) will be Gospel Hymn Sunday. We urge brothers and sisters to come together in unity, invite with full effort, and pray fervently. Let's work to bring salvation to non-believing friends and family, spreading the Gospel throughout Greater Taipei, and leading all people to turn to Christ.
3. On September 2nd (Saturday), there will be a spiritual retreat for all staff members from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Morning prayer for the entire church will take place at 7:00 AM. Both events will be held in the B1 auditorium. Staff members are kindly requested to prepare their hearts and attend the meeting, coming together with shared visions and united spirits.
4. The registration for the "Autumn-Winter Happiness GOGO Course" is now open. We kindly ask brothers and sisters to invite their non-believing friends and family to sign up. Additionally, please pray and watch over the course.
5. We urge brothers and sisters to come together and care for the summer missions. Please pray for the activities of this week: the Youth Leadership Camp, the Unified Devotion Camp, the Parent-Child Outreach on 8/22, and the Editorial Training Camp on 8/22.
6. This week, we will be reading Psalms 67 to 69 together. Please refer to the Unity Church website (<http://www.ctfhc.org>) to watch "The Key to the Bible," "Bible Is Good to Read," and listen to the "Clear Mind" program on the Good News Radio, focusing on the book of Leviticus.

☞ The Lord's Prayer

☞ Doxology

☞ Benediction

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