



Taiwan Harmony Friends Church

Worship Service **Mar.17, 2024**

Jesus Loves You
International Convention Center

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☞ Prelude	Choir
☞ Invocation	Presider
☞ Praise	Congregation
☞ Responsive Reading	Congregation
☞ Prayer	.....	Presider
☞ Special Music	.....	Choir
☞ Scripture Reading	.....	Presider
☞ Message	.....	Pastor
☞ Responsive Hymn	.....	Presider
☞ Offertory	.....	Pastor
☞ Holy Communion	.....	Pastor
☞ Announcement	.....	Presider
☞ The Lord's Prayer	.....	Congregation
☞ Doxology	.....	Congregation
☞ Benediction	.....	Pastor
☞ Postlude	.....	Congregation

☞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:



☞偉大奇妙神 Ah, Lord God

♪ Ah, Lord God Thou hast made the heavens
and the earth by Thy great power
Ah, Lord God Thou hast made the heavens
and the earth by Thine outstretched arm

♪ Nothing is too difficult for Thee x2
O great and mighty God Great in counsel
and mighty indeed
Nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing,
Nothing is too difficult for Thee

☞祢是彌賽亞 You are Messiah

♪ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord loudly with joy
Raise my hands to proclaim: Holy is the Lord!
Praise my Lord Jesus
Who had made flesh for all have sinned
You are Messiah, my Lord, and my God.

♪ So rich is my God's love moving on this earth,
I see it everyday
I bow down before You in awe 'n humbleness

♪ Praise my Lord Jesus
Who had made flesh for all peoples
You are Messiah, my Lord, and my God.

☞世界之光 Light of the World

♪ Jesus, the Hope of the world
The Bright morning star,
That shines through the darkness.
Jesus, the way, the truth and the life.
To You, all honor and praise, forevermore.

♪ All the nations worship the Lord,
In the light of Your grace,
We will lift up the name of Christ,

♪ All the heavens shout out your praise
[Glory, honor and praise.]x3
Light of the world. Glory, honor and praise.

☞Responsive Reading: **Psalm 42:1-3, 5-8**

- 1 I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.
- 4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.
- 5 Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.
- 6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire— but my ears you have opened — burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.
- 8 I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.”

☞Praise

☞我知道我救贖主活著 I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

1 I know that my Redeemer liveth,
And on the earth again shall stand;
I know eternal life He giveth,
That grace and power are in His hand.

Chorus:

I know, I know that Jesus liveth,
And on the earth again shall stand;
I know, I know that life He giveth,
That grace and power are in His hand.

2 I know His promise never faileth,
The word He speaks, it cannot die;
Though cruel death my flesh assaileth,
Yet I shall see Him by and by.

☞Special Music

☞奉主寶貴聖名 In the name of the Lord

♪ Crowds have lined the narrow street
To see this man from Galilee
Just a carpenter some say, leading fools astray
Yet many kneel to give him praise
And in his eyes they glimpse the power
That sees the heart of all men

And he knows the Father's mind
 He speaks the Father's words
 For he comes in the name of the Lord
 ♪ [There is strength in the name of the Lord
 There is power in the name of the Lord
 There is hope in the name of the Lord
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord]
 When my plans have fallen through
 And my strength is nearly gone
 When there's nothing left to do.
 But just depend on you
 And the power of your name
 And we call on your name
 Your strength through weakness to show
 We can know the master's plan extend the master's
 hand
 When we come in the name of the Lord
 ♪ [] His name will be worshipped forever
 Creator, Redeemer, and King
 ♪ [] the name of the Lord

☞ Scripture Reading:

Exodus 32:26

So Moses stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Anyone who wants to **follow the Lord** should **come to me.**" Everyone from the tribe of **Levi** ran to Moses.

Numbers 14:24

But my servant Caleb **was different.** He **follows me completely.** So I will bring him into the land that he has already seen, and his people **will get that land.**

Ezra 9:4 (NASB)

Then everyone who was **frightened** by the words of the God of Israel on account of the unfaithfulness of the exiles **gathered to me**, and I sat appalled until the evening offering.

Sermon: Standing on the Lord's Side

- Pastor Hsu

Why are Some People More Blessed?

I. Crisis Becomes Miracles

1. Curses Turn into Blessings: Exodus 32:26; Genesis 49:5,7; Numbers 3:12; Jeremiah 33:18

Genesis 49:5-7 "Simeon and Levi are brothers. They are violent with their swords.

6I will not join their secret meetings. I will not take part in their evil plans. They have killed people out of anger and crippled animals for fun.

7Their anger is so strong that it is a curse. They are too cruel when they are angry. They will not get their own land in the land of Jacob. They will be spread throughout Israel.

Numbers 3:12 "Now, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every

firstborn, the firstborn of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine. (NASB)

Jeremiah 33:18 And there will always be priests from the family of Levi. They will always stand before me and offer burnt offerings and sacrifice grain offerings and give sacrifices to me."

Simeon and Levi were cursed by their father for murder, resulting in no inheritance and the gradual weakening of the tribe of Simeon.

The tribe of Levi, however, **stood on the Lord's side** during the golden calf incident, and they were remembered and chosen by God. They received the privilege of serving God, **having no earthly inheritance but God as their portion.** They were scattered throughout the land, serving God, teaching people to know and obey Him!

2. Receiving God's Promises: Numbers 14:24,37-38

Numbers 14:2 But my servant Caleb was different. He follows me completely. So I will bring him into the land that he has already seen, and his people will get that land.

Numbers 14:37-38 The men were responsible for spreading the trouble among the Israelites. So the LORD caused a sickness to kill all those men.

38 But Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh were among the men who were sent out to explore the land. They are the only ones who did not get the sickness that caused the others to die.

When twelve spies went to explore the promised land, ten of them reported that the enemies were powerful and that the Israelites would be defeated.

Only Caleb and Joshua stood up, **standing on the Lord's side.** They encouraged the people to respond to God, not to betray Him, and not to fear the inhabitants of the land because God was with them!

God promised Joshua and Caleb **entry into the promised land.** God punished the faithless spies for their wrongdoing!

3. Regaining the Presence of the Lord: Ezra 9:2-4; 10:1,5-8,12

Ezra 9:2-4 The Israelites have married the people living around us. The Israelites are supposed to be special, but now they are mixed with the other people living around them. The leaders and important officials of the Israelites have set a bad example in this thing."

3 When I heard about this, I tore my robe and my coat to show I was upset. I pulled hair from my head and beard. I sat down, shocked and upset.

4 Then everyone who respected God's Law shook with fear. They were afraid because the Israelites who came back from captivity were not faithful to God. I was shocked and upset. I sat there until the evening sacrifice, and the people gathered around me.

Ezra 10:1 Ezra was praying and confessing. He was crying and bowing down in front of God's Temple. While Ezra was doing that, a large group of the Israelites—men, women, and children—gathered around him. They were crying

Ezra 10:5-8 So Ezra got up. He made the leading priests, the Levites, and all the Israelites promise to do what he said.

6 Then Ezra went away from the front of God's house. He went to the room of Jehohanan, son of Eliashib. While Ezra was there, he didn't eat food or drink water. He did that because he was still very sad. He was very sad about the Israelites who came back to Jerusalem.

7 Then he sent a message to every place in Judah and Jerusalem. The message told all the Jewish people who had come back from captivity to meet together in Jerusalem.

8 Those who did not come to Jerusalem in three days like the officials and elders said would lose their property and be removed from the group.

God had mercy on the people who were captured, allowing them to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. However, the people intermarried with foreigners and indulged in lust, committing grave sins.

1) Ezra earnestly prayed before God, **standing on the Lord's side**;

2) A group of people who feared God gathered for prayer;

3) Next, men and women gathered for a large assembly, weeping and repenting;

4) Finally, everyone gathered in trembling repentance in the pouring rain, abandoning their sins, and seeking the presence of the Lord!

II. Standing on the Lord's Side

1. Fearlessly Standing with the Crowd, Upholding Truth: **Ezra 9:2, 10:15**

Ezra 9:2 The Israelites have married the people living around us. The Israelites are supposed to be special, but now they are mixed with the other people living around them. The leaders and important officials of the Israelites have set a bad example in this thing."

Ezra 10:15 Only a few men were against this plan. They were Jonathan son of Asahel and Jahzeiah son of Tikvah. Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite also were against the plan.

During the golden calf incident, the Levites faced opposition from all the Israelites;

During the spying incident, Joshua and Caleb faced the Israelites who wanted to stone them;

Ezra had to confront the sins and resistance of the leaders, officials, and religious leaders!

Satan creates worldly customs and trends to resist God in this age. We must stand firm in the truth!

Action: It is better to offend people than to offend God!

2. Abandoning Idolatrous Sin: **Ezra 10:3,11**

Ezra 10:3 Now let us make an agreement before our God to send away all these women and their children. We will do that to follow the advice of Ezra and the people who respect the laws of our God. We will obey God's law.

Ezra 10:11 Now you must confess your sins to the LORD, the God of your ancestors. You must obey his command. Separate yourselves from the people living around you and from your foreign wives."

During the golden calf incident, the Levites stepped forward to punish the leaders who worshiped idols, eliminating idolatrous influence;

Ezra led the people in confessing their sins, cutting off relationships with foreign women and sexual immorality!

Action: Reject idols and pursue holiness!

3. Praying Urgently Until the End: **Ezra 9:5, 10:1,6-8**

Ezra 9:5 "At the evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the LORD my God."

Ezra 10:1 Ezra was praying and confessing. He was crying and bowing down in front of God's Temple. While Ezra was doing that, a large group of the Israelites—men, women, and children—gathered around him. They were crying.

Ezra 10:6-8 Then Ezra went away from the front of God's house. He went to the room of Jehohanan, son of Eliashib. While Ezra was there, he didn't eat food or drink water. He did that because he was still very sad. He was very sad about the Israelites who came back to Jerusalem.

7 Then he sent a message to every place in Judah and Jerusalem. The message told all the Jewish people who had come back from captivity to meet together in Jerusalem.

8 Those who did not come to Jerusalem in three days like the officials and elders said would lose their property and be removed from the group.

When Ezra heard about people sinning, he earnestly prayed before God, bringing about partial revival; He continued fasting and praying, gaining greater strength and repentance, leading to thorough confession!

Prayer should not stop until God's will is completely fulfilled, and His kingdom is fully revealed!

Action: Kneel down, fast, and pray to gain courage and strength!

☞ Responsive Hymn

☞ 要忠心 Be True

♪ We are going forth from the school of Jesus,
We have sat at His blessed feet,
We have drunk from truth's celestial fountain,
We have tasted its honey sweet.
We are witnesses for our blessed Master
In a world where friends are few;
And He sends us forth with the watchword holy,
Whatsoever it costs, Be true.

♪ We are going forth from the upper chamber,
From the days of our Pentecost,
We have giv'n ourselves in a full surrender,
And been filled with the Holy Ghost.
We are going forth as epistles holy,
And to live as Christ would do;
Let us always represent our Master,
Let our life be always true.

♪ We are going forth with a trust so sacred,
And a truth so divine and deep,
With a message clear and a work so glorious,
And a charge, such a charge to keep.
Let it be our greatest joy, my, brother,
That the Lord can depend on you,
And if all besides should fail and falter,
To your trust be always true.

♪ We are going forth with a glorious mission,
As ambassadors for God,
We are sent with heaven's last word of mercy,
Over all the world abroad.
We are sent to save from the blight of sorrow,
And the curse of sin undo;
With a work so grand and a trust so holy,
Oh, what heart would not be true?

Refrain

♪ Be true! (We'll be true,) be true! (we'll be true,)
Let the holy watchword ring; (we'll be true,)
Be true! (We'll be true,) to your trust, (to our trust,)
Be true to your glorious King; (We'll be true, yes,

we'll be true.)

Be true! (We'll be true,) be true! (we'll be true, we'll be true.)

Whether friends be false or few; (we'll be true,)

Whate'er betide, ever at His side,

Let Him always find you true.

☞ Announcement

1. On Saturday, March 23rd, at 2:00 PM, there will be a "Life in the Melody" testimonial sharing event on the 4th floor. We are excited to have Sandra Sisters, world-renowned piano performers, play captivating melodies and share their faith journey as composers. It's sure to be inspiring! Feel free to invite friends and family!

2. Join us for "Easter Gospel Songs Sunday" on Sunday, March 31st, at 10:00 AM, located at Taipei Silicon Valley International Conference Center B2 (No. 223, Section 3, Beixin Road, Xindian District, New Taipei City). There is a paid parking lot available in the basement. Brothers and sisters can search for "Taipei Silicon Valley Phase II Parking Lot" to attend the gathering. Shuttle buses will also be provided by the church starting at 9:20 AM on Sunday. Please fill out the survey form in the weekly bulletin and submit it to the ushers after the service if you need transportation.

3. "Spring Happiness GOGO" will commence classes on April 9th. Registration is now open! New courses this season include Picture Book Class, Camping Life Class, Table Tennis Class, Badminton Class, and more. Feel free to invite friends and family who are interested to join.

4. This week's unified Bible reading progress is from Proverbs chapters 7 to 9. Please refer to the website of Unity Church (<http://www.ctfhc.org>) to read "The Key to the Bible" and "The Bible is Fun to Read."

☞ The Lord's Prayer

☞ Doxology

☞ Benediction

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