

Jesus Loves You **International Convention Center**



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www.ctfhc.org



%Prelude

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

For Chinese Pinyin lyrics, please scan:

抬頭仰望主 **Lift Up Your Heads**

☐ Lift up your heads to the King of kings, Look to Him and adore. Worship with reverence, sing with praise, Praise His honor and glory! Praise His power and majesty, His goodness, holiness, and might. All the glory belongs to Jesus, Jesus, my King!

↑ 滿有能力 I am Strengthened in Him

- All of my hope lies in Jesus Christ alone For I know that He is my peace All of my joy lies in Jesus Christ alone He lives in me forever more
- □ Declare the One who's within me Is greater than the one in the world I'm not of this world I belong to Jesus the King Declare the One who's within me Is greater than the one in the world I know that the King lives in me I am strengthened in Him
- My Lord who lives in me Conquers all of my enemies My Lord who lives in me Is my portion my victory

† 超乎所求 More than Enough

- You are more than enough for me. Jehovah Raepha, You're my healer, By your stripes I've been set free. Jehovah Shammah, You are with me, To Supply All My Needs.
- ✓ You are more than enough, More than enough, You are more than enough for me.

∞Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:57-64

- 57 You are my portion, Lord; I have promised to obey your words.
- 58 I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.
- **59** I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes.

- **60** I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.
- **61** Though the wicked bind me with ropes, I will not forget your law.
- **62** At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws.
- 63 I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.
- **64** The earth is filled with your love, Lord; teach me your decrees.

∞Praise

- † 祢信實何廣大 Great is Thy faithfulness
- □ Faithful You are Faithful, King of kings, Lord of lords, You are Faithful Faithful You are Faithful, King of kings, Lord of lords, I Worship You
- □ Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.
- Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Refrain:
- □ Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

∞Special Music

- ↑ 慶賀歌唱 Celebrate and Sing
- ☐ [Come, lift your voice and sing, Hosanna to our King! Join the celebration, this joyful day, sing Hallelujah! Let praises rise up high, resounding through the skies, Shout with joy and worship Him!]
- ☐ The Lord's my Shepherd true, my comfort in the night. Through trials and storms, He is my strength, my hope, my guiding light. My heart is filled with song, rejoicing all day long, This melody will echo through the ages. His love pours out on all He made, His mercy overflows! []
- All that is lovely and bright, all things both great and small, The heavens and earth declare His praise our God created all! []
- ☐ Come, lift your voice and sing, Hosanna to our King! (Sing Hallelujah! Sing Hallelujah!) Join the celebration, this joyful day, sing Hallelujah! (Lift up your voice! Sing out with joy!) Let praises rise up high, resounding through the skies! (Hear heaven's song! Praise Christ the King!) (Sing out His praise!) Shout with joy and worship Him!

☐ [Come, lift your voice and sing!] (x3)

Shout with joy and worship Him, praise His name!

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 34:17

Therefore this is what the Lord says: You have not obeyed me; you have not **proclaimed freedom** to your own people. So now I **proclaim 'freedom'** for you, **declares** the Lord—'**freedom'** to fall by the **sword**, **plague and famine**. I will make you abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth.

Isaiah 58:6, 8

6 Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Sermon: The Freedom I Long for

- Pastor Hsu

We all long for freedom—financial freedom, job freedom, health freedom, relationship freedom, emotional freedom, and freedom from self-doubt. But where does true freedom come from? Do Christians have real freedom?

I. Binding Others, Being Bound

<u>Jeremiah 34:8-16</u> The word came to Jeremiah from the Lord after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim freedom for the slaves.

- **9** Everyone was to free their Hebrew slaves, both male and female; no one was to hold a fellow Hebrew in bondage.
- **10** All the officials and people who entered into this covenant agreed to free their slaves and let them go.
- 11 But afterward, they changed their minds and took back the slaves they had freed and enslaved them again.
- 12 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:
- 13 "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I made a covenant with your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
- 14 Every seventh year, each of you must free any fellow Hebrew who has sold themselves to you and has served you six years.
- 15 Recently you repented and did what is right in my sight: Each of you proclaimed freedom to your own people. You even made a covenant before me in the house that bears my Name.
- 16 But now you have turned around and profaned my name; each of you has taken back the male and female slaves you had set free. Therefore, this is what the Lord says: 'You have not obeyed me by proclaiming freedom for your own people. So I now proclaim "freedom" for you,' declares the Lord—'freedom to

fall by the sword, plague, and famine. I will make you abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth."

1. Taking Away Freedom: Jeremiah 34:8-16

Before Judah was conquered, they decided to set their slaves free.

Moses' law required that fellow Israelites should not be enslaved forever but should be freed in the seventh year (<u>Leviticus 25:39,41</u>).

<u>Leviticus 25:39,41</u> "If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and sell themselves to you, do not make them work as slaves.

41 Then they and their children are to be released, and they will go back to their own clans and to the property of their ancestors.

At first, they obeyed God's word because of food shortages and military threats, but when the crisis passed, they re-enslaved people (<u>Jeremiah</u> 34:21,11,16).

Jeremiah 34:21,11,16 I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials into the hands of their enemies who want to kill them, to the army of the king of Babylon, which has withdrawn from you.

- 11 But afterward they changed their minds and took back the slaves they had freed and enslaved them again.
- **16** But now you have turned around and profaned my name; each of you

2. The "Freedom" of Suffering: <u>Jeremiah</u> 34:17

Jeremiah 34:16-17 But now you have turned around and profaned my name; each of you has taken back the male and female slaves you had set free to go where they wished. You have forced them to become your slaves again.

17 "Therefore this is what the Lord says: You have not obeyed me; you have not proclaimed freedom to your own people. So I now proclaim 'freedom' for you," declares the Lord—"freedom to fall by the sword, plague and famine. I will make you abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth.

God declared judgment. When people break His covenant, dishonor His name, and take away others' freedom, God announces "freedom" for them—freedom to suffer war, famine, disease, exile, and destruction!

<u>Isaiah 58:6-10</u> "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

- 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
- 8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.
- **9** Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.
- "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
- 10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

II. Releasing Others, Finding Freedom: <u>Isaiah</u> 58:6-10

When we give rest to the weary, we will find true rest (**Isaiah 28:12**).

<u>Isaiah 28:12</u> to whom he said, "This is the resting place, let the weary rest"; and, "This is the place of repose"—but they would not listen.

Worshiping God, freeing the oppressed, and caring for others bring great blessings!

1. Light and Healing: <u>Isaiah 58:8,10; Luke</u> 1:78-79

<u>Isaiah 58:8,10</u> Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

<u>Luke 1:78-79</u> because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven 79 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

In the darkest times, light suddenly appears, bringing hope and a way forward.

We receive healing, comfort, and strength from the Lord!

2. Righteousness and Glory: Isaiah 58:8

<u>Isaiah 58:8</u> Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Righteousness goes before us, helping us understand God's heart and stay on His path. The Lord's glory is our rear guard, like the cloud and fire that guided and protected Israel!

3. Blessing for Future Generations: <u>Isaiah</u> 58:12

<u>Isaiah 58:12</u> Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Every believer and their children will be strong and blessed, bringing great restoration and hope!

III. The Path to Freedom

1. Remembering My Weakness: <u>Jeremiah</u> 34:13

<u>Jeremiah 34:13</u> "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I made a covenant with your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

God reminds us that our ancestors were once slaves in Egypt. We must not oppress others.

If we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven. We owe God an unpayable debt (Matthew 18:32-35).

Matthew 18:32-35 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Remembering our own weaknesses and past mistakes keeps us humble, forgiving, loving, and generous (1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Chronicles 29:14).

<u>1 Timothy 1:15</u> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

1 Chronicles 29:14 "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

2. Experiencing True Freedom in Christ: Jeremiah 34:13

<u>Jeremiah 34:13</u> "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I made a covenant with your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

God set us free from Egypt with ten plagues, the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud and fire, manna, and the Jordan River. These were great miracles! In Christ, we have real freedom!

- Not worrying about tomorrow is freedom.
- Loving others as ourselves is freedom.
- · Rejoicing always is freedom.
- Living in peace is freedom.
- Working with God's favor is freedom.
- 3. Loving Others in Real, Practical Ways: <u>Isaiah 58:6,7,9-10</u>

<u>Isaiah 58:6,7,9-10</u> "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

- 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
- 9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
- 10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.
 - Loosening the chains of others: Let go of comparisons and resentment. God handles justice; we handle love!
 - **Speaking words of kindness:** No criticism, gossip, or complaints. Speak as if God is listening!
 - **Sharing with the hungry:** See others' needs as our responsibility.

Using what we have wisely: See our resources as "five loaves and two fish" that God can multiply!

∞Responsive Hymn

- † 讓我 Let Me
- You bought me at a price.
 Save me from the river of sins
 To be saved through belief in the truth.
 You put Your Spirit in my hearts.
 For me to overcome the flesh.
 O Lord please lead me to the spiritual pea

■ Let me praise not only through words.

Let me worship not only through methods. Let me serve not only by hands.

Let me pray not only by mouth.

☐ Let me love people with sincere.

Let me treat others with all my heart Let me learn to obey You.

Decorate myself with Your holiness.

% Announcement

- 1. **Harmony Youth Academy** will hold the "**Truth Course**" this Saturday at 2:00 PM in the **Cloud Hall (1st floor).** High school to graduate students are welcome to join—invite your friends!
- Single Fellowship will host "Love Catcher –
 A Relationship Talk" this Saturday at 2:00
 PM in B1. All single working young adults are invited—spread the word!
- 3. This week's Bible reading: Jeremiah 37-39. Visit the Harmony Church website (http://www.ctfhc.org) to watch "Logos Gateway" and "Bible Made Simple."

ॐThe 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.

Solution Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

9 Benediction

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.