

## Taiwan Harmony Friends Church Worship Service Mar. 16, 2025

#### ∽Prelude

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

For Chinese Pinyin lyrics, please scan:



### 中早晨唱新歌 It's a Morning of New Song

↓ It's a morning of new song, It's a morning to rejoice In the Lord's loving kindness And to lift up my voice To sing hallelujah, right from the start And to glorify Jesus. Morning Star of my heart

### 常 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.
  () 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.

### ☆ 感謝耶穌 Thank You Jesus

- Oh I thank You Lord, for You're faithful and kind All days in my life, You are on my side I offer my heart, for Your mercies and grace for me they are prepared
- ♫ Thank You Jesus, thank You Lord Oh Your love fills up my heart Your mighty grace I receive today. Praise I dedicate

### Sealth Se

- **89** Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
- **90** Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.
- **91** Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.
- **92** If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.
- **93** I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.
- **94** Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts.
- **95** The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes.
- **96** To all perfection I see a limit, but your commands are boundless.

#### **Praise**

### †昨日今日直到永遠 Yesterday, Today, Forever

Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus stays the same. What a glorious gospel message, saving by His grace! Through all ages, He forgives sin, heals the sick and weak. Comforts sorrow, calms the tempest—glory to His name!

Jesus came to be our Savior, friend to all in need. Those who trust Him find redemption, drawn to God in peace. He once said, "I came to save you, not to judge your sin. I have come to bring forgiveness, cleanse your soul within."

(Chorus)

Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus stays the same. [Though all things may change, He never will glory to His name] (glory to His name!) \*2 []

### **Special Music**

### 常 祢提昇我 You Raise Me Up

- ↓ When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary When troubles come and my heart burdened be Then, I am still and wait here in the silence Until You come and sit awhile with me.
- ✓ (You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas I am strong, when I am on your shoulders You raise me up to more than I can be) \*4 You raise me up to more than I can be.

### Scripture Reading:

### **Revelation 21:10**

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. **Philippians 3:13-14** 

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,
14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

# Sermon: The New Jerusalem and You - Pastor Dong

Hebrews 11:13, 16 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

**16** Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

John 14:1-3, 6 Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

**2** My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

**3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

**6** Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Entering the New Jerusalem and reigning with God forever is the purpose of our creation and salvation! This is the reason we exist and the goal we strive for throughout our lives!

The book of Hebrews reveals that walking the path of faith is not easy. Many people who trust in God live with great courage and glory. Their lives shine brightly, their faith is strong, and they are truly admirable. The Bible even calls them "people of whom the world was not worthy"!

How did they live this way? What was their secret? Their focus was set on their heavenly home—the New Jerusalem!

Today, through the Bible, let's take a closer look at heaven, our eternal home, and the New Jerusalem from above.

### I. The Ultimate Leadership Team

There is so much to do in God's kingdom! According to **Matthew 25:21**, the leadership team in heaven has three key qualities: **faithfulness**, **love**, and humility.

# 1. Faithfulness: Giving Our Best (Matthew 25:20-21)

<u>Matthew 25:20-21</u> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Being faithful means doing our best, not just getting the job done, but **giving our all** to fulfill God's mission! It's not about doing things halfway—it's about **giving our very best!** 

# 2. Love: Passionately Loving Others (Matthew 25:34-40

<u>Matthew 25:34-40</u> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

**35** For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

**36** I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

**37** "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

**38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

**39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

**40** "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Those who belong to God's kingdom love others just as Jesus loves them. They actively care for people—especially those who are **looked down upon or forgotten** by the world.

### 3. Humility: A Teachable Heart (Matthew 5:3, Acts 17:11, Acts 2:37-38)

<u>Matthew 5:3</u> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Acts 2:37-38 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

True humility is shown in two ways:

- (1) Having an open and humble heart listening, seeing, and judging things with wisdom.
- (2) Being willing to accept correction admitting mistakes, repenting, and actively following God's guidance.

<u>Matthew 25:31-33</u> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.

32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

### II. The Ultimate Joy and Blessing (Revelation 21:4, 6-8, 19-21, and 21:23–22:3.)

**Revelation 21:4** 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

**6-8** He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

**7** Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

**19-21** The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,

20 the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.[ $\underline{a}$ ]

**21** The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

**<u>21:23-27</u>** The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

**24** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

**25** On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.

**26** The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. 22:1-3 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

**3** No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

### III. The Ultimate Governing Center—Radiant and Glorious (Revelation 21:10-11, 22-27)

**<u>Revelation 21:10-11</u>** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

22-27 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

**24** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

**25** On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.

**26** The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

**27** Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**IV.** The Ultimate Heavenly Constitution

God's will (His truth) is the Constitution of Heaven. (Matthew 7:21)

<u>Matthew 7:21</u> Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Love is the Core (Colossians 3:14, 1 Corinthians 13:13, Matthew 22:37-40)

<u>Colossians 3:14</u> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<u>**1** Corinthians 13:13</u> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

38 This is the first and greatest commandment.39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

# (1) The Kingdom Constitution We Must Pursue, Obey, and Practice Now (Matthew <u>5-7</u>)

### (2) The Beatitudes: A Summary of the Kingdom Constitution (Matthew 5:3-12)

<u>Matthew 5:3-12</u> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for

righteousness, for they will be filled.

**7**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**9**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.11"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

**12**Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

# (3) The Guide for Living It Out: Walking with God. (Micah 6:8)

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly<sup>[]</sup> with your God.

(4) The Teacher: The Holy Spirit (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:19-22</u>)

<u>1 Thessalonians 5:19-22</u> Do not quench the Spirit.
<u>20</u>Do not treat prophecies with contempt
<u>21</u> but test them all; hold on to what is good,
<u>22</u> reject every kind of evil.

In heaven, our eternal home, all of this will be fully realized!

### V. God's Eternal Presence (Revelation 22:5)

**Revelation 22:5** There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

**<u>1 Peter 1:4</u>** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

### **Key Points:**

## **First:** We must **focus on our heavenly home**. **Second:** We must **pursue faithfulness, love, and humility**!

In everything, follow the will of our Heavenly Father, walk with God, put love first, and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's guidance, listening and obeying Him.

Focusing on our heavenly home is the **one thing** we must do in life!

Love the **family God has given you** today, and love the Church, fellow believers, and the world with the love of Jesus! Just as **Jesus loved us**, we must love others.

This is the secret to receiving a hundredfold

in this life and the key to eternal life in the world to come!

### **%** Responsive Hymn

- † 抬頭仰望主 Lift Up Your Heads
- Lift up your heads to the coming King Bow before Him and adore Him sing To His majesty let your praises be Pure and holy giving glory to the King of kings
- Hosanna Hosanna the little children sang Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang Hosanna in the highest That ancient song we sing For Christ is our Redeemer the Lord of Heaven our king
- 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!

### Announcement

- Harmony Youth Academy: Time Management Seminar – Join us on Saturday, 3/22 and 3/29, at 2:00 PM in the Cloud Hall (1st Floor). High school and college students are welcome! Learn how to manage your time wisely and live a victorious and abundant life in this ever-changing world.
- 2. Couple Fellowship: "The Journey of Parenthood" – A Worship & Testimony with the Deng Family – Come and be inspired on Sunday, 3/30, from 1:00-2:30 PM in the Main Sanctuary (4th Floor). A special parent-child area will be available on the 3rd floor. This gathering will share the joys and challenges of parenting. Feel free to invite friends and family who have not yet come to faith. Lunch will be provided at 12:15 PM. Please register by scanning the QR code on page 6 of the bulletin or contacting your small group leader.
- "Encountering God" Retreat Experience true freedom through prayer, worship, and biblical truth at our Encountering God Retreat on Sunday, 3/30, at 1:00 PM in the Morning Star Hall (5th Floor). Walk-ins are welcome!
- This Week's Bible Reading Plan Jeremiah 46-48. Visit the Harmony Church website (<u>http://www.ctfhc.org</u>) to watch *Logos Gateway* and *Bible Made Simple*.

The Lord's PrayerDoxologyBenediction