



## 🎵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:



† 我歡喜因我屬主耶穌

**I'm So Glad I Belong To Jesus**

♪ (I'm so glad I belong to Jesus) x3  
Hallelujah praise ye Lord  
(praise ye Lord Amen) x6  
Hallelujah praise ye Lord

† 奔向愛我的神 **So I Will Run**

♪ Heavenly King, mighty and great.  
Yet You overflow with grace.  
You show Your love to those who keep  
All Your covenant and ways  
♪ Faithful and true, You're here with me.  
Full of mercy and saving grace.  
Time and again, You hear my prayer.  
Go before me and lead the way.  
♪ So I will run to the God who saves me  
Lift up a shout, praising His name  
Glorifying the Father  
♪ So I will run to the God who loves me  
I will not fear, I will not faint  
Trusting You alone, covenant God. \*Repeat\*

† 求主充滿我 **Come and Fill Me Up**

♪ I humbly come to seek your face  
come and fill me up  
come fill me up I long for your dwelling place  
cleanse from my sin come fill me up  
♪ Jesus my Lord Jesus my king  
Your precious blood washes me  
Jesus my joy Jesus my peace  
Grace flows down and covers me

### 🎵Responsive Reading: **Psalm 122:1-9**

- 1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.

- 4 H That is where the tribes go up— the tribes of the LORD—to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.
- 5 There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.
- 7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."
- 8 For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."
- 9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

### 🎵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

† 哈利路亞 奇妙救主 **Hallelujah To The Lamb**

♪ Hallelujah what a Savior Hallelujah what a friend  
Saving helping Keeping loving  
He is with me to the end  
♪ Lord we stand in the midst Of a multitude  
Of those from every tribe and tongue  
We are Your people Redeemed by Your blood  
Rescued from death by Your love  
There are no words Good enough to thank You  
There are no words to express my praise  
But I will lift up my voice And sing from my heart  
With all of my strength

### CHORUS

♪ Hallelujah hallelujah Hallelujah to the Lamb  
Hallelujah hallelujah By the blood of Christ we stand  
Every tongue every tribe Every people every land  
Giving glory giving honor  
Giving praise unto the Lamb of God  
♪ Lord we stand by grace in Your presence  
We're cleansed by the blood of the Lamb  
We are Your children Called by Your name  
Humbly we bow and we pray  
Release Your power To work in us and through us  
Till we are changed to be more like You  
Then all the nations will see  
your glory revealed and worship You

(Repeat chorus)

Every knee shall bow Every tongue confess  
That You are Lord of all Lord of all Lord of all

(Repeat chorus 2 times)

(Hallelujah) Giving praise unto the Lamb of God x2  
Jesus Christ Lamb of God

🔑 **Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)**

**2** "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the **joy** set before him he **endured** the cross, **scorning** its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the **throne of God**."

**Luke 10:21 (NIV)**

**21** "At that time Jesus, full of **joy** through the Holy Spirit, said, 'I **praise** you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have **hidden** these things from the wise and learned, and **revealed** them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what **you were pleased** to do.'"

🔑 **Sermon:**

**The Power to Break Through Hard Times**

- Pastor Hsu

Every day, we face different kinds of struggles—crisis, attacks, lack of resources, weakness, failure, and fear. These things can catch us off guard and leave us tired and worn out. But how can we break through these hard times?

**Matthew 11:17, 20** "We played the flute for you, but you didn't dance;  
we sang a sad song, but you didn't cry."

**20** Then Jesus began to speak strongly against the towns where He had done most of His miracles, because the people there still didn't turn back to God.

**Matthew 11:25-26** At that time, Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I thank You! Because You have hidden these things from those who think they are wise and smart, but You have shown them to little children."

**26** "Yes, Father, this is what You were pleased to do."

**I. The Key to Overcoming Suffering Is "Joy"**  
**(Hebrews 12:2; Luke 10:21)**

Jesus faced great shame—from religious leaders, His own family, political pressure, being pushed away by society, betrayal by His disciples, unfair trials, and finally, being nailed to the cross.

He also went through deep suffering—being tempted in the wilderness, laughed at by the crowds, misunderstood by His disciples, not believed by the people, the pain of the cross, and even separation from the Father.

But Jesus overcame all of this because of "**the joy set before Him**."

Even when His ministry seemed to fail, He was full of **joy** through the Holy Spirit!

**Joy gave Him amazing strength.**

Even when surrounded by enemies, He was not crushed.

Even when the fig tree didn't produce fruit, He still rejoiced in God.

Even in prison, with chains on His feet, He sang praises to God!

**II. The Key to Joy Is "Seeing"**

**1. Seeing the Beauty of God's Kingdom:**  
**(Hebrews 12:2; 11:13, 16, 26–27)**

**Hebrews 12:2**; fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**11:13, 16, 26–27** 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.

**26** He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

**27** By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

The "joy set before Him" was this: **sitting at the right hand of God's throne**—being with God, lifted up by God, reigning with Him, finishing the Father's will, and receiving the most glorious reward in God's kingdom!

The heroes of faith held on to God's word with joy, even in big challenges, because they saw something far ahead. They saw a **better home in heaven, a heavenly city**, and welcomed it with joy. God was proud to be called their God!

Moses saw the reward in heaven, and he knew it was worth much more than all the riches of Egypt. He even saw that suffering for God was more valuable than earthly treasure—because he saw the invisible God and saw the kingdom of heaven!

These faithful people lived on earth, but **their hearts were set on heaven**. They saw through what was happening in the world, and they focused on God's kingdom!

## 2. Seeing the Father's Good Will: (Matthew 11:25–26; Philippians)

Matthew 11:25–26 At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

**26** Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

People saw Jesus as a failure.

But Jesus saw it differently—this was the **Father's good plan**. God's kingdom was revealed not to the “wise and learned,” but to little children!

Why was Paul able to write the “**letter of joy**” (Philippians) while he was in prison?

Philippians 1:12–14 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters,<sup>[b]</sup> that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

**13** As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard<sup>[c]</sup> and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

**14** And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

People thought Paul being in prison was a disaster.

But Paul saw: the gospel was spreading, the guards were hearing about Jesus, and other believers became braver in their faith. That made him really happy!

Philippians 1:15–18 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

**16** The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

**17** The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

**18** But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

Some people preached Christ with bad intentions, out of jealousy, trying to make Paul's situation worse.

But Paul said: “It doesn't matter. Christ is being preached—that's what matters!” And he rejoiced!

Philippians 1:20–25 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient

courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

**21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

**23** I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

**24** but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

**25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

People thought Paul might die soon.

But Paul said: “If I die, I'll be with Jesus—that's gain! If I live, I can help others grow in faith. Either way, I'm full of joy!”

Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

People saw Paul's suffering.

But Paul saw it as a gift from God—a sign of grace!

Philippians 3:5, 8, 12 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;

**8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

**12** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

**4:1** Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

People thought Paul had given up a lot and lost everything.

But Paul said: “Everything I lost is like trash compared to gaining Christ and the kingdom of heaven!” And that gave him great joy!

Philippians 4:2–4 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

**3** Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

**4** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

There were arguments in the church. But Paul focused on this: “Their names are written in the Book of Life, and we are learning to be one

family in Christ.” That brought him joy!

**Philippians 4:10–14** I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

**11** I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

**12** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

**13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

**14** Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

- **People saw:** Paul was in chains, stuck in prison. So sad!  
**Paul saw:** The gospel was spreading, the prison guards believed, the brothers became stronger—so he rejoiced!
- **People saw:** Other believers were jealous of Paul and tried to make things worse for him.  
**Paul saw:** Christ was being preached anyway—and that gave him great joy!
- **People saw:** Paul might die soon.  
**Paul saw:** Dying means gain—he would be with Jesus! Living means helping others—both ways, he had joy!
- **People saw:** Paul was suffering.  
**Paul saw:** His suffering was a gift from God.
- **People saw:** Paul lost so much and gave up everything.  
**Paul saw:** Everything he lost was garbage compared to gaining Christ and the kingdom of heaven—so he rejoiced!
- **People saw:** The church had problems and disagreements.  
**Paul saw:** Their names were written in the Book of Life, and the church was learning unity and holiness—so he rejoiced!

**People saw:** Paul had many needs.

**Paul saw:** He had learned the secret of being content. He could do all things through Christ. Even suffering was a blessing!

When we **see the Father’s good plan**, we realize that everything is grace. **God allows these things to help us** and to prepare us for His eternal kingdom.

To see the beauty of heaven and the goodness of the Father, the key is **faith**!

So let’s keep praying for our faith—because **by faith, we can see the invisible God**!

Joy is not the final goal—it’s a **sign**, like a dashboard light. It helps us check: Are we going the right direction? Are we focused on the right things? Do we still have “faith fuel” in our tank?

So let’s write down what we’re thankful for—and **fill up our tank with joy**!

### ✠Responsive Hymn

✠ 屬天的喜樂 **The Joy from Heaven**

♪Receive the joy from heaven

That is my greatest strength in my deep heart

I can feel Your wonderful love

In my daily life

You’re always with me

♪Receive the joy from heaven

That is my glorious hope in my deep heart

I can feel Your mighty power

Cease, calm waves and storms in my restless heart

♪Hallelujah You always dwell deeply in my heart

My heart will not despair again

For You are the strength of my life

Hallelujah I will declare,

praise Your holy name

The heavenly joy now befalls to fill my heart

### ✠Announcement

1. **Super Parent-Child Center** will hold a talk on **Tuesday, May 27 at 10:30 AM** called **"Love and Life Talk—Caring with Peace, Loving without End."** Come and learn about **Long-Term Care 2.0** services and how to apply. Everyone is welcome!
2. This week’s **Bible reading** is **Ezekiel chapters 19 to 21**. Please visit the **CTFHC Church website** (<http://www.ctfhc.org>) to watch **"Bible Gateway"** and **"The Bible is So Good"**, and listen to **Pastor Hsu’s radio program "A Clear Heart—The Book of Isaiah"** on Good News Radio.

### ✠The Lord’s Prayer

### ✠Doxology

### ✠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.*