



## 🎵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:



### † 興起歡唱 **Arise And Sing**

- ♪ Arise and sing Ye children of Zion  
For the Lord has delivered Thee (2X )
- ♪ Open your hearts and rejoice before Him (3X )  
For the King is your God

### † 將天敞開 **Open Heaven**

- ♪ Lord, release an open heaven and come down x3  
May the nations sing. You're the glorious king
- ♪ Heaven and earth will join as one  
Singing Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God is  
Worthy of our praise  
Heaven and earth singing everlasting praise  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah. [Bridge]
- ♪ God is here with us, dwelling in this place  
Let our eyes be fixed on You  
Nations will declare You alone are God  
We will give You the highest praise

### † 在至高之處 **In the Highest**

- ♪ In the highest I give thanks  
I raise up my hands to give You glory  
Angel armies Give praise to You Jesus  
Greatest glory is unto You
- ♪ In the highest place give Him all glory  
There is peace on earth with those whom He is  
pleased. Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Jesus You are worthy of it all

## 🎵Responsive Reading: **Psalm 19:7-14**

- 7** The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
- 8** The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
- 9** The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.
- 10** They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.
- 11** By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12** But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
- 13** Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

**14** May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

## Praise

### † 普世歡騰 **Joy to the World**

- ♪ Joy to the world The Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
(And heaven and nature sing) x2  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing
- ♪ Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
(Repeat the sounding joy) x2  
Repeat repeat the sounding joy
- ♪ No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
(Far as the curse is found) x2  
Far as far as the curse is found
- ♪ He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
(And wonders of His love) x2  
And wonders wonders of His love

## 🎵Special Music

### † 錦繡聖誕 **Splendid Christmasy**

- ♪ O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
come quickly to Bethlehem.  
See the Holy Child lying in a manger—  
born the King of angels. Come,  
let us adore Christ the Lord.
- ♪ Joy to the world! The Lord has come;  
let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and let all creation sing. Let heaven and nature sing!
- ♪ Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the sky.  
Mountains echo their joyful strains—  
glory to God in the highest!
- ♪ The angels first proclaimed the good news  
to humble shepherds in the field.  
Watching their flocks on a cold and silent night,  
they heard heaven's joyful song.
- ♪ O come, let us adore; hear the angels singing—  
O holy night! O holy night, sacred night.
- ♪ This splendid Christmas is a masterpiece  
designed by the Heavenly Father.  
His story is woven with our lives  
in the colors of His love.  
As you celebrate, let His story fill your heart.  
And let your life become part of this beautiful  
tapestry of Christmas.
- ♪ Because of love,  
the Holy Child was laid in Mary's arms.  
Because of love,  
God's eternal light shone into the darkness.  
The world proclaimed the long-awaited Savior

in the stillness of night.  
He came bearing a gift—the gift of love.  
Jesus, Emmanuel—God with us, King of kings!  
We offer all our praise and join the angels' song—  
this gift of love.  
How marvelous this splendid Christmas is—  
Christ is born!

☞ **Scripture Reading: 1 Sam. 16:6–7, Prov. 4:23**

**1 Samuel 16:6–7** When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

**7** But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

**Proverbs 4:23** Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

☞ **Sermon: Do Not Forget Your First Love**

~ Pastor Dong

What kind of heart did David have that surpassed others?

What kind of heart does God look at, value, and treasure?

**1 Chronicles 2:13–15** Jesse was the father of Eliab his firstborn; the second son was Abinadab, the third Shimea,

**14** the fourth Nethanel, the fifth Raddai,

**15** the sixth Ozem, and the seventh David.

**1 Chronicles 13:9–14** When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen stumbled.

**10** The Lord’s anger burned against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God.

**11** Then David was angry because the Lord’s wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

**12** David was afraid of God that day and asked, “How can I ever bring the ark of God to me?”

**13** He did not take the ark to be with him in the City of David, but took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

**14** The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house for three months, and the Lord blessed his household and everything he had.

**1 Chronicles 17:3–20** That night the word of God came to Nathan, saying:

**4** “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in.

**5** I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up out of Egypt to this day. I have moved from

one tent site to another, from one dwelling place to another.

**6** Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders whom I commanded to shepherd my people, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’

**7** “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel.

**8** I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men on earth.

**9** And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning

**10** and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also subdue all your enemies. “ ‘I declare to you that the Lord will build a house for you:

**11** When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom.

**12** He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever.

**13** I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor.

**14** I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.’ ”

**15** Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

**16** Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said: “Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?

**17** And as if this were not enough in your sight, my God, you have spoken about the future of the house of your servant. You, Lord God, have looked on me as though I were the most exalted of men.

**18** “What more can David say to you for honoring your servant? For you know your servant,

**19** Lord. For the sake of your servant and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made known all these great promises.

**20** “There is no one like you, Lord, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.”

**1 Chronicles 18:6–8** Then David put garrisons in Aram-Damascus, and the Arameans became subject to him and brought tribute. The Lord gave David victory wherever he went.

**7** David took the gold shields carried by the officers of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem.

**8** From Tibhath and from Kun, towns that belonged to Hadadezer, David took a great quantity of bronze, which Solomon used to make the bronze Sea, the pillars and various bronze articles.

**1 Chronicles 22:5-6, 13-15** David said, “My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it.” So David made extensive preparations before his death.

**6** Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel.

**13** Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

**14** “I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord: a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them.

**15** You have many workers: stonecutters, masons and carpenters, as well as those skilled in every kind of work.

**1 Samuel 16:10-13** Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.”

**11** Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.”

**12** Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

**13** So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Then Samuel went to Ramah.

**1 Samuel 17:1-2, 26**

**1** After David was settled in his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under a tent.”

**2** Nathan replied to David, “Whatever you have in mind, do it, for God is with you.”

**26** David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

## **I. A Heart That “Loves God Persistently to the Very End” — 1 Samuel 17:26; 1 Chronicles 18:6-8**

- **In his youth**, when he had nothing — **1 Sam. 17:26**

- **In his prime**, when everything went well — **1 Chr. 17:1-2**
- **In old age**, when the kingdom enjoyed peace — *End of **1 Chronicles***
- **In the most difficult seasons**, he still persevered — **1 Chr. 22:13-15**

No matter the mountains or valleys, day or night, success or failure, times of glory or obscurity, youth or old age, strength or weakness, joy or sorrow...David remained the same — a heart that loved God to the uttermost and to the very end.

God saw this heart, this unwavering devotion. — **1 Chr. 18:6-8; 22:5-6, 13-15**

**Jeremiah 33:14-17** “‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

**15** “‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

**16** In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’

**17** For this is what the Lord says: ‘David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of Israel.’”

## **II. A Heart That “God Cherishes and Treasures” — 1 Chronicles 17:3-15; Jeremiah 33:14-17**

God clearly saw this heart — and treasured it, and greatly blessed it. **1 Chronicles 17:3-15** shows God blessing David with:

1. **A house established by God**
2. **A heart of repentance and the grace of forgiveness**
3. **Victory over all his enemies**
4. **Blessing upon his descendants from generation to generation**

## **III. A Heart That “Loves God According to His Truth” — 1 Chronicles 13:9-14**

The death of Uzzah highlights a crucial truth: One essential element of love is reverence and respect.

To truly love God, we must respect Him; and the most basic form of respect is to obey His appointed ways.

Pure motives are not enough. Love must be expressed according to God's commands and standards.

True love always contains reverence. Love without reverence or respect is not love.

A heart that truly loves God is a heart that loves Him according to His truth.

**2 Corinthians 12:7–10** or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

**8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

**9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

**10** That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

#### IV. The Key to Having This Kind of Heart: "Persist in Giving Thanks in All Things" — **1 Chronicles 17:16–20**

The human heart easily becomes: **proud, self-pitying, or complaining against God.**

Comparing with Paul, we see that he could avoid pride, self-pity, and complaining because:

- At the **peak of success**, he did not become proud.
- In the **valley of discouragement**, he did not fall into self-pity.
- While **suffering injustice**, and even when God seemed silent, he refused to complain.

**Why?** Because **he gave thanks** — even for the unpleasant things. — **2 Corinthians 12:7–10**

In those verses, a deep fragrance of gratitude flows through Paul's words. He insisted on thanking God for his "thorn."

**Q: How can we possess and live out a heart that gives thanks in all circumstances?**

By clearly knowing: "Who I am" and "Who God is."

— **1 Chr. 17:16–20**

**Q: How can we continually know God and ourselves more deeply, so that we keep a grateful heart and never lose our first love?**

By continually meditating on: God's greatness, glory, majesty, power, and wisdom. My own unworthiness, smallness, weakness, impurity. And yet — how deeply God loves me, forgives me, remembers me, cares for me, and honors me—  
Psalm 8

**Psalm 8:1–9** Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

**2** From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

**3** When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

**4** what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

**5** You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

**6** You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

**7** all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,

**8** the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

**9** Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Let us repeatedly reflect:

God is so great, glorious, majestic, supreme, and wise; I am so unworthy, undeserving, and small;

Yet God loves me so much, forgives me, cares for me, remembers me, and blesses me abundantly.

**May we never lose our first love — never lose a childlike heart before God.**

🕊️ **Responsive Hymn**

🕊️ **Announcement**

🕊️ **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.*

