

**♪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:

**† 真是快樂日 What a Joyful Day**

♪ What a joyful day I sing praises to Him every day
What a joyful day living for my Lord
♪ What a joyful day everything becomes better
To live with His promise I lean on day and night

† 這裡有榮耀 Glory

♪ Hallelujah *2 Glory's in this place
Hallelujah *2 Healing overflows
♪ Hallelujah *2 Freedom's in this place
Sound of praise like many waters
Living God Your presence is here
♪ You're the Alpha, Omega Forever the living God
I worship with all my heart Glory to the lamb
You're the righteous sun that shines on us
All nations will come before You
You're the holy one, bright morning star
Who was, is and who is to come

† 全心來讚美祢 Praise You with All My Heart

♪ [Praise you with all my heart, raise hands to show: I love you, Lord.]
You are everything to me, and I honor your holy and highest name.
♪ [] You are everything to me, and I (honor your holy name.)*3

♪Responsive Reading: Psalm 24:1-10

- 1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
- 2 for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.
- 3 Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?
- 4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.
- 5 They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior.
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- 10 Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty — he is the King of glory.

♪Praise**† 頌讚主聖名 Blessed be the Name**

♪ All praise to Him Who reigns above
In majesty supreme,
Who gave His Son for man to die,
That He might man redeem!
♪ His Name above all names shall stand,
Exalted more and more,
At God the Father's own right hand,
Where angel hosts adore.
♪ His Name shall be the Counselor,
The mighty Prince of Peace,
Of all earth's kingdoms Conqueror,
Whose reign shall never cease.
Refrain
♪ [(Blessed be the Name!) *3 of the Lord!] *2

♪Special Music**† 祢名何等尊貴榮耀****The Majesty and Glory of Your Name**

♪ When I gaze into the night skies
and see the work of your fingers;
The moon and stars suspended in space.
Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him?
You have given man a crown of glory and honor,
And have made him a little lower than the angels.
You have put him in charge of all creation:
beasts of the field, The birds of the air,
The fish of the sea. Oh, what is man?
Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him?
O Lord, our God
the majesty and glory of your name
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God;
little children praise You perfectly,
(And so would we)*2. Alleluia!*2
The majesty and glory of Your name.
Alleluia!*2
The majesty and glory of Your name.
Alleluia! *7

♪Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 23:5 However, the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned **the curse into a blessing** for you, because the LORD your God **loves you**.

Malachi 2:2 “If you do not listen, and if you do not **take it to heart** to give honor to My name,” says the LORD of hosts, “then I will send a curse upon you, and I will **curse your blessings**. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you have not taken My command to heart.”

♪Sermon:**“The Distance Between Blessing and Curse”**

~ Pastor Hsu

Numbers 23:10 Who can count the dust of Jacob or number even a fourth of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and may my final end be like theirs!"

22-24 God brought them out of Egypt; they have the strength of a wild ox.

23 There is no divination against[a] Jacob, no evil omens against[b] Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, 'See what God has done!'

24 The people rise like a lioness; they rouse themselves like a lion that does not rest till it devours its prey and drinks the blood of its victims."

24:5, 7, 9 "How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, your dwelling places, Israel!

7 Water will flow from their buckets; their seed will have abundant water. "Their king will be greater than Agag; their kingdom will be exalted.

9 Like a lion they crouch and lie down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse them? "May those who bless you be blessed and those who curse you be cursed!"

Zechariah 3:3-4 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel.

4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you."

I. A Curse Turned into a Blessing:

1. Curses from the Enemy — ([Deuteronomy 23:5; Numbers 23:10, 22-24; 24:5, 7, 9; Zechariah 3:3-4](#))

King Balak of Moab hired the prophet Balaam to curse Israel, but when Balaam opened his mouth, blessings came out instead.

- 1) Israel would be as numerous as the dust of the earth.
- 2) No sorcery or divination could harm Israel; God does mighty works, and Israel is strong like a lion.
- 3) Israel's tents are beautiful; the nation is powerful and will devour its enemies.

Genesis 50:20; 45:5 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

45:5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

Psalm 3:2-3 Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him."

3 But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

2 Kings 19:16, 19 Give ear, Lord, and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.

19 Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Lord, are God."

2. Attacks from Evil People — ([Genesis 50:20; 45:5, Psalm 3:2-3, 2 Kings 19:16, 19](#))

Joseph's brothers, driven by jealousy, sold him into Egypt with evil intent. But God intended it for good, preparing Joseph to become governor of Egypt in order to preserve many lives.

What appeared to be the brothers' betrayal was, in fact, God's sending.

Ruth 1:20; 4:14 "Don't call me Naomi,[a]" she told them. "Call me Mara,[b] because the Almighty[c] has made my life very bitter."

4:14 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!"

Matthew 1:5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,

1 Samuel 2:1 Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn[a] is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance."

3. Family Hardship — ([Ruth 1:20; 4:14; Matthew 1:5; 1 Samuel 2:1](#))

Naomi suffered greatly—her husband and sons died—but God prepared descendants for her, leading to King David.

Ruth was brought into the genealogy of salvation.

Hannah endured years of barrenness, yet God gave her a son, Samuel, who transformed an entire generation.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for

your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

1 Corinthians 4:10 We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored!

4. The Suffering of the Cross —

1) He was punished; we have peace ([Isaiah 53:5](#))

The Lord was wounded and scourged so that we might receive peace and healing. Jesus' great love brings true peace.

2) He became sin; we became righteous ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#))

The sinless Lord became sin for us, so that we who were sinful might become righteous in Him.

3) He became poor; we became rich ([2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Corinthians 4:10](#))

Though He was rich, for our sake He became poor, so that through His poverty we might become rich.

We are willing to follow the Lord—becoming foolish and weak—so that others may receive wisdom and glory.

Malachi 2:2-3 If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor my name,” says the Lord Almighty, “I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me.

3 “Because of you I will rebuke your descendants[a]; I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it.

II. A Blessing Turned into a Curse

1. Blessing and Curse Are Only a Line Apart—([Malachi 2:2-3](#))

The priesthood is a blessing, but when one departs from God, it becomes a curse.

A beautiful wife is a blessing—consider Abraham's wife.

Wisdom is a blessing—Solomon had great wisdom.

Wealth is a blessing—the rich young ruler.

Yet all these blessings can turn into curses when separated from God.

2. Obeying God

- 1) **Listen** — focus attentively on God's Word and the promptings of life.
- 2) **Take it to heart** — listen carefully, let it sink deeply, and memorize God's Word.
- 3) **Give glory to God's name** — devote yourself fully to glorifying, revering, and honoring God.

Malachi 2:13-16 Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands.

14 You ask, “Why?” It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

15 Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring.[a] So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.

16 “The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,”[b] says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

Ezekiel 13:22 Because you disheartened the righteous with your lies, when I had brought them no grief, and because you encouraged the wicked not to turn from their evil ways and so save their lives,

3. Holiness in Relationships — ([Malachi 2:13-16; Ezekiel 13:22](#))

God rejects offerings when there is a barrier between Him and His people—the tears of a wife.

Emotional indulgence, divorce, and violent treatment of others are things God hates.

Marriage must return to its original design: God creates husband and wife, provides a suitable partner, and establishes godly families.

Do not wrong others, and do not grieve the righteous.

Jesus is the source of every blessing. Hold firmly to Jesus, and everything becomes a blessing.

(Colossians 2:9-10)

Colossians 2:9-10 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

❖ Responsive Hymn

† 喜樂泉源 Fountain of Joy

♪ You are my fountain of joy,
You set my feet to dancing.
You let me soar like eagles,
You gave me perfect freedom.
You are the hope of my life,
Your love is great beyond words.
Your promise never changes,
From now to forevermore.

♪ It was Your blood that gave me pow'r.
To heal the sickness and disease.
It was Your life that lets me live,
The life of blessing free from the curse

♪ We lift Your holy name on high.
You're worthy to receive our highest praise.
With all my heart and soul, mind and strength,
We worship You. We lift Your holy name on high.
Your name is lifted high above all names.
So come and build Your throne,
You're the King of kings.

❖ Announcement

1. Carrer Fellowship will be held on **Saturday, January 18, at 1:30 p.m.** in the **4th-floor sanctuary**. The talk, "*Professor Hippo's Kitchen*", will be delivered by **Professor Wen-Liang Chang**. You are warmly invited to bring family and friends to learn about God's love together.
2. **Shijia Village Props Exhibition** will be on display from **January 18 to February 15** at the **1st-floor Friendship Corner**:
 - **Monday:** 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
 - **Tuesday–Friday:** 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
 - **Weekends:** During service hours
New friends are welcome to visit. Please do not touch the exhibits.
3. The church will host a **Lunar New Year's Eve Reunion Dinner on Monday, February 16**. All members, returning travelers, and families are welcome to celebrate together. Those who wish to attend, please contact your fellowship group leader.
4. To help maintain church safety, brothers and sisters are kindly reminded to **close the security door and glass door** when entering or leaving the **5th floor**. When taking the elevator down from the 5th floor, **do not press both elevator buttons at the same time**. Regardless of whether you board the elevator, please ensure that the elevator you called has arrived and that **no unidentified persons are riding** before you leave.

5. **This week's unified Bible reading schedule: Zechariah chapters 12–14.** Please visit the **CTFHC website (<http://www.ctfhc.org>)** to watch *the Bible Gateway* and *Bible Insights*, and to listen to Pastor Hsu's program on Good News Radio, "*A Wakeful Heart—The Book of Ezekiel*."

❖ The 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.

❖ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

❖ Benediction

May the grace from Lord Jesus, the love from our heavenly Father and the guiding of Holy Spirit be with all of our brothers & sisters from now on and forevermore.

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.