

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Notes from Rodney L. Barbour

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Theme: Today we gather to praise our Father in heaven, as the Lord of all. His will is perfect, and He provides generously for all of his creatures. He cleanses us from all our sins. He leads us in paths that are safe and right. His kingdom is to be desired above all else. His power is the greatest force in the universe. His glory radiates from every corner of Creation. Let us praise and adore God, Heavenly Father for all that He is and for the amazing grace and forgiveness He has extended to us.

Preparation for Worship: We make a joyful noise to the Lord by standing and singing two songs of praise. Here is a portion of the text from each of these two songs. Read through these words before Sunday, if you know the tunes sing them in your personal worship times each day this week.

Blessed be Your Name

verse: Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
where your streams of abundance flow---blessed be your name.

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness--blessed be your name

chorus: Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name

verse: Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be--Blessed be your name
Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering--blessed be your name

Mighty to Save

chorus: Savior, he can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save.
Forever, author of Salvation
He rose and conquered the grave Jesus conquered the grave.

verse: So take me as you find me all my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow everything I believe in now I surrender

bridge: Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory of the risen King

Call to Worship: These words are a continuation of last week's message from 1 Chronicles 29. King David announced his plans for the building of the temple, and offered his gifts and received the gifts of others. The response from the people was so favorable, David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly saying: *"Praise be to you, O Lord..."* As we bring our gifts today to support the building of our church, we join with David in praising God:

Leader: Praise be to you, O Lord!

People: To you whom Solomon worshiped in great joy and devotion; to you whom Jesus has taught us to call, "our Father in heaven," we bring our praise!

Leader: What else can we do but be thankful? What else can we give but thanksgiving? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

People: And who am I, O Lord, and what are we as a people, except by your grace poured out to us through Jesus Christ?

Leader: We are nothing in ourselves. We are nothing except by His victory over death and His gift of new and eternal life.

People: And so to you we offer ourselves freely. Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Yours is the greatness and the victory and the majesty. To You alone we give our praise. AMEN!

Hymn of Praise: The hymn "Holy, holy, holy" takes us to the writing in the book of Revelation (Chapter 4) which describes heavenly or spiritual worship with the four living creatures crying: "Holy, Holy, Holy". We join with all creation as we worship through singing today.

Confession: We often try to create or build things in our own power. All wisdom and power come from God. Today's confession helps us see the limitation of our resources compares to God's fullness.

Pastor: We are imperfect. God is Flawless.

People: We are in time. God is eternal.

Pastor: We are vulnerable. God is unthreatened.

People: We see problems. God has plans.

Pastor: God works in and through and around and in spite of us, accomplishing his aims even as he risks everything by letting us have a part in his great enterprises.

People: In our weakness we come to you, Father, asking that we may see our lives, our successes and failures, our trials and triumphs, from you point of view. Amen.

Scripture/Sermon: Be sure to take time to read today's passage Matthew 6: 19-24 before you come to worship today. Pastor Alan will remind us of these words from Matthew: *"No one can serve two masters...one cannot serve both God and Money."*

Ingathering of Pledges: Following today's teaching time, we will have the opportunity to prayerfully respond by offering our pledges for the continued building of God's church among us at Crestview. As in the opening we will

joyfully join together similar to King David leading his people in prayer and singing. We will use these words:

***My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love;
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength,
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.***

***Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.***

See you in Worship this Sunday. Rodney Barbour