

6:30 – 6:40am: Praise Song

-During this time, we will learn a new praise song that invites us to open our hearts before God

Touch of Heaven – David Funk with Bethel Music

<https://youtu.be/j16eJipwF-A?si=1o68BOWu6zIHjoq6>

Writers: Aodhan King, Michael Fatkin, Hannah Hobbs, Benjamin Hastings, Kalley Heiligenthal

How I live for the moments
Where I'm still in Your presence
All the noise dies down
Lord speak to me now
You have all my attention
I will linger and listen
I can't miss a thing

Lord I know my heart wants more of
You My heart wants something new
So I surrender all

All I want is to live within Your love
Be undone by who You are
My desire is to know You deeper
Lord I will open up again
Throw my fears into the wind
I am desperate for a touch of heaven

Oooh

You're the fire in the morning
You're the cool in the evening
The breath in my soul
The life in my bones
There is no hesitation
In Your love and affection
It's the sweetest of all

Lord I know my heart wants more of
You My heart wants something new
So I surrender all

All I want is to live within Your love
Be undone by who You are
My desire is to know You deeper
Lord I will open up again
Throw my fears into the wind
I am desperate for a touch of heaven

Oooh

I open up my heart to You
I open up my heart to You now
So do what only You can
Jesus have Your way in me now

I open up my heart to You
I open up my heart to You now
So do what only You can
Jesus have Your way in me now

I open up my heart to You
I open up my heart to You now
So do what only You can
Jesus have Your way in me now

All I want is to live within Your love
Be undone by who You are
My desire is to know You deeper
Lord I will open up again
Throw my fears into the wind
I am desperate for a touch of heaven

6:40 – 6:50am: Scripture Reading & Devotional

Today's reading comes from [John 19:9-17](#).

It continues to strike me that Pilate is the only one who honestly treats Jesus as king. Of course, it's not with reverence and worship, but Pilate is not duplicitous like the religious leaders are.

The leaders want to execute Jesus using any means, even through deceit and a borrowed hand.

But Pilate treats him as would a worldly king – he sees Jesus as the leader of a vassal state and with no reason to kill him. All the more so when Jesus claims divinity, a common basis for leadership in that time.

Pilate would have been fine to release Jesus, at until his pride is provoked.. Pilate is accused of treason for setting up a king to be against the emperor. And so, Pilate sits in his judgment in seat. Ironically, Pilate does not judge Jesus but lets the crowd decide. Pilate sentences Jesus to crucifixion according to the crowd's wishes.

Let us recognize that the positions of leadership and authority that we hold are not our own, but are given to us by God. Just as Jesus responded to Pilate, that Pilate had no power unless it was given to him. A spiritually true and politically true statement. One that probably Pilate acknowledged.

But where Pilate failed is that he had no moral foundation. Pilate knew his power came from the people, and so thus, followed the people. He sat on a judgment seat but did not judge, rather he followed the crowd.

In contrast Jesus stood in the seat of the condemned and rightly judged the world. He took on death, the punishment for sin, so that all who believed in him could have eternal life. His foundation was the One and Holy God, who reigns with compassion and mercy.

Where is our foundation? If we follow after the world, the world will deceive us and sweep us away from values of righteousness, justice, and integrity, even if we think we are heading towards it.

And if we follow Jesus, though it leads us to the seat of mockery, ridicule, ruined reputation – though following Jesus means a life not lived by our own preferences but in service to others, that is true justice and righteousness.

The death Jesus took on for our sake now frees us to do the same. To give up our life so that it might be lived in loving and serving as Jesus did. Let us surrender to this amazing grace.

6:50 – 7:10am: Prayer

First, pray for peace across the world. Pray for the end of war and violence. For the end of bloodshed and conflict. For lasting peace and reconciliation. For the restoration and rebuilding of broken communities.

Secondly, pray for our community.

Thirdly, pray for our church and all the ministries we are part of.

Lastly, pray that we may surrender to the cross. To hang on that cross our old ways of selfishness, self-centeredness, and self-indulgence that leads to our self-destruction. And receive in its place, the amazing grace of forgiveness and new life.

7:10 – to whenever: Personal prayer time

-During this time, there will be gentle instrumental music that will play in the background and all are invited to stay as long as they wish in prayerful posture, lifting up everything into God's hands.