

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

Behold Our God – Sovereign Grace Music

https://youtu.be/Gqrli3Lkf58?si=ElT_PZMmcbNtbhiE

Songwriters: Jonathan Baird / Meghan Baird / Ryan Baird / Stephen Altrogge

Behold Our God (Who has held the oceans) lyrics © Sovereign Grace Worship, Sovereign Grace Praise

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach, the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill-)

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
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Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore

Who has felt the nails upon his hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

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

Today's reading comes from John 12:20-36.

This morning's passage is unique in that it is the first time in the Gospel of John where non-Jews have come to seek out Jesus. The very first time non-Jews are mentioned is when Jesus meet the Samaritan woman at the well. In that passage, Jesus seeks out the woman. But in this scripture passage, the Greeks come to Jesus. I make note of that because Jesus speak of it a few verses later, but Jesus points towards the universal nature of the work he will do – that is he dies for all to be saved, not just an exclusive group. We'll back to this point.

But to the Greeks' request to see him, instead of responding, Jesus offers a metaphor.

The image of a grain of wheat.

If you take a grain of wheat and plant it, it will grow into a stalk of wheat that will produce more grains of wheat.

But Jesus describes this as falls into the earth and dies. And Jesus teaches that those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life will keep it for eternal life.

This is the rephrasing of what's found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke – “those who seek to keep their life will lose, those who give up their life for my sake, will keep it.”

I don't think Jesus is calling us to literally hate our own life, but I do think that we do not have to fear for our own life. We do not have to make the choice to preserve our life at the expense of others, and certainly not at the expense of disobeying, neglecting, rejecting God.

Rather, we surrender to Jesus. Jesus said that whoever serves him must follow him. And where Jesus is headed is to lay down his life for his friends.

Where is Jesus headed today? Will we follow him?

Perhaps he is headed to some place that's a little out of our comfort zone. We spoke briefly of how Jesus called all people to himself. Jesus was never meant for one exclusive group. But Jesus was for all. We are not meant to stay in our own little groups, in our own little bubbles. But we are meant to be sent out – as when a grain of wheat falls away from the stalk it came from.

Where is Jesus headed? And will we follow him?

. Or perhaps someplace we know will take out a little more energy than we think we have to spare.

Or perhaps he is headed to “that person”, inviting us to reconcile.

The end of the scripture passage this morning invites us to “walk in the light” and Jesus is that light. So, though the way forward is uncertain, Jesus will guide each step forward. When we let go of ourselves, cast away the fear and pride, and we plunge into the unknown following Jesus – we can be certain that Jesus leads us to life. Because Jesus is life.

6:50 – 7:10am: Prayer

First, pray for peace all over the world. Pray for the end of war and violence. Pray for God's people there, to be the light as they rescue and offer aid and relief. Let us pray for how we might support our brothers and sisters in restoring broken homes and lives.

Secondly, pray for this country. For the turning of hearts back to Jesus, who teaches us to love as Jesus loved. Pray for leaders who lead with morality and integrity. Pray for decisions to be made for the benefit of all people and not just the selfish interest of the wealthy.

Thirdly, pray for our church to grow in number. That all who come here find healing and restoration. That when we go out, we go out with the intention to invite. To share Jesus and to welcome so that we all come together to worship.

Lastly, pray for ourselves asking for bold and courage faith. To follow Jesus, even if he leads us to the unknown. Letting go and falling way from our own ideas, from fear, from pride. All so that when we follow Jesus, we can have eternal life as he promised.

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.