

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

In Christ Alone - Lauren Daigle

<https://youtu.be/3ch6eXkQWU8>

Writers: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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

Today's reading comes from [John 12:37-50](#).

We officially finish the first half of John with this morning's scripture passage.

Remember that up to this point, the gospel of John has shown Jesus

- performing signs: water into wine chapter 2; healing a sick boy chapter 4; healing a paralyzed man chapter 5; feeding the 5,000 chapter 6; healing a blind man chapter 9; raising Lazarus up from the dead chapter 11
- Jesus teaching: "I am the bread of life" 6:35; "I am the Light of the World" 8:12; "I am the gate for the sheep" 10:7; "I am the good shepherd" 10:11; "I am the resurrection" 11:25; "I am the way, truth, and life" 14:6; "I am the true vine" 15:1
- Jesus claiming to be God/from God: Jesus claims God's name "I am" in 4:26, 6:20, 8:24, 8:28, 8:58, 13:19, 18:5

And after these signs and teachings, the author of the gospel shows us the debate that arises among the people. Most people believe and there are still some who do not believe, and some who reject him all together.

In this morning's scripture passage is the familiar invitation once more – Jesus says,

"I come from God. If you believe in me, then you believe in God. I come to give life to anyone who believes."

Do we believe? Do we believe what Jesus did? Do we believe what Jesus taught?

Consider what does it mean to believe in something, or to believe in someone?

Is it just lip-service? Is it enough to simply *say* that you believe?

What else must happen, or what else must be done, to truly believe?

Take for example, Jesus who heals a paralyzed man – a man who had every excuse for not being able to become well. But Jesus came to him and offered him healing. Not just physically healing but also spiritual, as Jesus showed the way forward – “sin no more” (5:14).

Do we believe Jesus can heal our past mistakes that have led to the chains of shame that bind us? Do we believe that one word from Jesus can release those chains, that we can be freed?

If we do believe, why not ask Jesus for forgiveness and to be made well?

Take another example, Jesus who raises Lazarus from the dead – beyond the realm of possibility of ever having life. For the body had already begun to rot having been dead for four days. And yet, Jesus calls him to come out of the grave. And so there was life once more.

Do we believe that Jesus’ voice can bring even the dead back to life? Do we believe that the things which we think are lost forever, the most impossible things are still possible in Jesus’ name?

If we do believe, why not ask Jesus for the impossible?

It is true, that not all answers to our prayers come in the forms we expect them, too. So all the more we must keep our eyes open to see how God moves. Let us not be like the ones mentioned in Isaiah, with blinded eyes and hardened hearts.

Rather, even blind eyes Jesus opened and hardened hearts Jesus has breathed new life into them.

So let us surrender to Jesus. Letting go of all the excuses that stop us from coming to Jesus. Let go of the pride that makes us love human glory more than the glory that comes from God. Let go for the fear for life is found when we hand it over to Jesus.

6:50 – 7:10am: Prayer

First, pray for peace across the world. Pray for protection and safety of the refugees. Pray for strength and safety of those volunteering and bringing aid to the refugees. Pray for the end of war and violence.

Secondly, pray for our children. Pray for protection. Pray for their own personal experiences of God’s great love for them. That they will learn more of who God is, growing up in the knowledge and love of God.

Thirdly, pray for our church and the leaders. For God’s vision for this church and God’s wisdom on the strategy to get to where God wants us to be. For servant’s heart to serve the church.

Lastly, pray for deep faith, and where there is unbelief help that we may believe. To come to value obedience over self-indulgence; to value humble submission over stubborn independence. To open our souls to the blessings that come, even in disguise.

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.