

**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*

Who You Say I Am – Hillsong

[https://youtu.be/lcC1Bp13n\\_4?si=rkLQ1xhwPpk5TwQr](https://youtu.be/lcC1Bp13n_4?si=rkLQ1xhwPpk5TwQr)

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Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me?  
I was lost, but He brought me in  
Oh, His love for me  
Oh, His love for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh, is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh, is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

I am chosen, not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me, not against me  
I am who You say I am

I am chosen, not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me, not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free  
Oh, is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
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Who the Son sets free  
Oh, is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

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

Today's reading comes from [John 15:12-19](#).

One of the great existential crises we all face is the question of "Who Am I"?

Jesus offers us the answer to that question. He says it as part of his final words, his parting words to his disciples. He gives them the source of their strength, their identity and purpose, and their task.

We read about the source of strength yesterday – about abiding in Jesus. It is by remaining in Jesus that nourishes us so that we might bear fruit.

Today, Jesus tells us our identity. We are chosen. Consider the perspective of the disciples. They would have lived during a time when many figures rose up to claim to be one who would set Israel free from oppression, to be the next King of the Jews. But Jesus is the one they picked and followed. Or so they think from their perspective.

Jesus tells them the spiritual reality. They did not choose Jesus, but Jesus chose them.

The other Gospels make this point by illustrating the moments when Jesus finds the disciples and calls them. In the Gospel of John, the only one he calls is Philip. Everyone else came to Jesus, Andrew and Simon Peter (John 1:35-42) and Nathaniel (John 1:44-51). The others seem to have come from the crowds of that followed him.

Yet, while it may seem like the disciples came to him, Jesus had already chosen them. He knew each of them coming to him – he named them and accepted them. He calls them friends.

Jesus teaches us what God has said. So that we are no longer outsiders but friends of God. Those who know what God is doing. And what God is doing, is sending Jesus and giving life.

Having given us an identity, now Jesus gives us purpose. Our purpose is to bear fruit. Not out of our own strength, but because we remain in Jesus. Jesus gives us the strategy on how to bear fruit. We can accomplish this purpose when we love as Jesus loved, that is loving others.

When we know our purpose, then what we are supposed to do becomes clear. The decisions we make now have a direction. The ways we go about our day having meaning.

How will we live our day today when we know that we are chosen by Jesus to bear fruit and we do so by loving others?

This morning's scripture passage closes with a reality check. Because we are chosen by Jesus, because we have purpose the world will reject us. Because we rejected the world's deception about selfishness and self-centeredness. Yet, we will not find belonging in the world. We find our belonging in Jesus. Jesus is our true friend. The one who gives true meaning, true purpose, true identity.

We are chosen, friends of Jesus, loved by Jesus, and tasked to love others. This is who we are.

## **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. For all those grieving loss. For those bound by illness and addictions. For those struggling to survive. Let there be revival in our community, with the real power of Holy Spirit who leads us to life.

Thirdly, pray for our church and all the little children who come here. Let us pray for their safety and protection. Let us pray that they may grow in mind and body, and in the knowledge and love of God.

Lastly, pray to be able to hear God say who we are. To ignore what the world tries to tell us about ourselves and instead, find our identity in Jesus.

## **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.*