

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

Beautiful Things - Gungor

https://youtu.be/gpOPkzplHRw?si=IU Au_DzD5M0T409j

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All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way?
I wonder if my life could really change at all?

You make me new, You are making me new
You make me new, You are making me new
Making me new

All this Earth
Could all that is lost ever be found?
Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

You make beautiful things
(you make me new)
You make beautiful things out of the dust
(you are making me new, You make me new)

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make beautiful things
(you are making me new)
You make beautiful things out of us
(you make me new)

All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos, life is being found in You

Oh, you make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

Oh, you make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new, You are making me new
You make me new, You are making me new

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

Today's reading comes from [John 16:12-22](#).

Jesus uses a lot of vague words here. Almost as if he's talking to children, Jesus is trying to explain that soon he will die but he will come back to life. Perhaps, because the disciples won't be able to understand, or perhaps they just can't believe it. But in any case, Jesus is trying to explain what will happen so they will not be afraid. And it will take faith, to believe in what Jesus says. Jesus says, they will weep and mourn but the world will rejoice. They will have pain, but the pain will turn to joy. This is the promise Jesus gives, with his final words, he promises joy from the pain. Do we believe?

Some of us may not be able to understand, like the disciples. We simply cannot see how this pain we're experiencing could ever turn into joy.

But see how Jesus uses the image of a woman giving birth. There is pain – a lot of pain when the hour has come. And when the baby is born there is so much joy it overshadows that pain. Not that the pain never happened, but the joy of life is greater than the pain.

So, what if we were to see our current pain as labor pains? That this is the process of giving birth?

There's a saying in Asia that childbirth is like walking through the gates of hell and coming back alive.

And this is exactly what Jesus did for us. He birthed us, the church, with his death and resurrection. It is real. Jesus is proof that there is joy out of the pain, that there is life out of death.

At the last verse of this morning's scripture passage, Jesus promises us one more thing. Whatever we ask in his name, he will give to us. So, he encourages us to ask so that our joy may be complete.

It begs the question, beyond asking for the pain to end, what more could we ask for? When we think of new life being birthed out of the suffering, is there something more we could ask for?

For me, I'm immediately drawn to ask for more lives to be birthed. If life comes out of the suffering, then let it become the testimony that brings others to see and believe. Like spiritual fertilizer – if the wheat grain must fall and die in order to bear fruit. If the suffering must happen, then let there be exponential fruit, a larger harvest, out of my testimony that exclaims joy out of the suffering, life out of the death.

We ask in the name of Jesus, that there isn't just one life saved out of death, but many lives redeemed through the cross.

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 country and community. Let there be revival so that all may come to Jesus. To find and receive genuine so that they can share genuine love and care. All of this country to return to the values of compassion, mercy, and justice.

Thirdly, pray for our church and all those on our prayer list. Let us pray for healing. Let us pray for comfort. Let us pray for perseverance and endurance.

Lastly, pray for deep trust in Jesus' promise that there is joy out of the pain, and life out of death. Let us ask that our testimonies bring many to come and see and believe 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.