

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

O Come to the Altar - Elevation Worship

https://youtu.be/OpfuKKH_SCE

Songwriters: Wade Joye / Mack Donald Iii Brock / Christopher Joel Brown / Steven Furtick

Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling

Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today, there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling

Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes, a new life is born
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Oh, what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful?
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen

Oh, what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful?
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen

O come to the altar
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O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you found

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

Today's reading comes from [John 9:15-25](#).

"I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."
After receiving the ability to see, the man is questioned by religious authorities. And this is the irony of this passage – the one who had the blindness can now see, the ones who thought they could see now cannot. None of the authorities believe the man nor do they believe in Jesus.

In this scene is the interplay of power. The religious authorities have always held onto power. They were the ones who dictates what people “see”. If they said the sky was brown and the ground was pink, then that’s how it was to be. That would be exactly the ‘blind leading the blind’ type of scenario. An ‘emperor’s new clothes’ scenario.

But now the man is no longer blind. Jesus has healed him. Jesus has made him new and opened his eyes. The man can see. And he can see the authorities’ blindness. Look how many times the same truth is repeated to them and how they still refuse to accept it. Within these 10 verses alone, they ask him or those related to him at least 4 times how did he gain sight. They get the most mad when the man praises God and calls Jesus a prophet. The authorities’ exclusive right to wield power is slipping out of their hands.

When Jesus heals us and gives us sight, when we recognize God and not the powers of this evil world, the world will reject us. The world will discredit us. The world will fight to get back their power. But no matter how hard they will try to deny, we still hold the truth.

And this is the truth: “We do not know anything but one thing, Jesus is the one who set us free.” Let us never give up confessing that Jesus is the Savior; that Jesus heals us; that Jesus came to forgive and give us new life.

Lastly, let us also recognize that we are, in some ways, very much like the Pharisees. We have privileges and power that may be taken away from us. At the very least, the things we knew and were comfortable with may be changed and no longer in the way and forms we once understood. Let us not be like the Pharisees who rejected even Jesus because it did not fit in their perspective. Rather, let us come before the cross and humbly ask for our eyes to be opened. If there are places, people, ideas, and situations that are God doing a new things, then let us submit ourselves to Jesus gentle teaching and guidance. Let us be made anew so that we can see and believe.

6:50 – 7:10am: Prayer

First, pray for the Ukraine and Russia. Let us pray for safety. Let us pray for rescue. Let us pray for successful diplomatic talks.

Secondly, pray for Sharonville and Cincinnati. For the work of God’s kingdom that brings peace to reach every alley that is plagued with anxiety, depression and violence.

Thirdly, pray for our church. For stronger bonds that unite this family. For open hearts to invite and welcome all those who come. For courage to go out and touch lives.

Lastly, pray for our courage to continue to confess that Jesus is our Savior and our healer. That we will gladly and boldly talk about all that Jesus has done for us. Let us not be afraid when situations change but let us come to Jesus for the path forward.

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.