

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

Touch of Heaven – David Funk with Bethel Music

<https://youtu.be/j16eJipwF-A?si=1o68BOWu6zIHjoq6>

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How I live for the moments
Where I'm still in Your presence
All the noise dies down
Lord speak to me now
You have all my attention
I will linger and listen
I can't miss a thing

Lord I know my heart wants more of
You My heart wants something new
So I surrender all

All I want is to live within Your love
Be undone by who You are
My desire is to know You deeper
Lord I will open up again
Throw my fears into the wind
I am desperate for a touch of heaven

Oooh

You're the fire in the morning
You're the cool in the evening
The breath in my soul
The life in my bones
There is no hesitation
In Your love and affection
It's the sweetest of all

Lord I know my heart wants more of
You My heart wants something new
So I surrender all

All I want is to live within Your love
Be undone by who You are
My desire is to know You deeper
Lord I will open up again
Throw my fears into the wind
I am desperate for a touch of heaven

Oooh

I open up my heart to You
I open up my heart to You now
So do what only You can
Jesus have Your way in me now

I open up my heart to You
I open up my heart to You now
So do what only You can
Jesus have Your way in me now

I open up my heart to You
I open up my heart to You now
So do what only You can
Jesus have Your way in me now

All I want is to live within Your love
Be undone by who You are
My desire is to know You deeper
Lord I will open up again
Throw my fears into the wind
I am desperate for a touch of heaven

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

Today's reading comes from [John 18:28-40](#).

There's an incredible amount of irony and double meaning going on in this passage.

First, there are the religious leaders who have no good reason for convicting and executing Jesus and yet expect the Roman government to sentence him. All the while, they think that by not entering into Pilate's palace is enough to keep them ritually pure to worship God.

Then there is Pilate who thinks Jesus is a nobody but Jesus speaks to him as an equal. Jesus gets Pilate to address Jesus as a king. And they talk as king to king.

Lastly, there is the release of the prisoner. The crowd calls for Barabbas.

In Jesus' time, people did not have last names, the way we use them now. They had a given name (first name), and then to distinguish them from others, they used their father's name. This is why in the Gospels, the disciples are listed by whose son they were – example: James and John, sons of Zebedee.

So, the prisoner Barabbas, actually is not his given name, but this is the name of his father. Barabbas' given name is Yeshua. Yeshua Bar Abbas, "bar" meaning "son" and "Abbas" meaning "father."

The crowd asks for a fake or the wrong Jesus.

It begs the question, do we know the real Jesus?

It's interesting that right before this, Pilate asks Jesus "what is truth?"

And the truth is, believe Jesus is God and that in God there is eternal life. That's it. There is not esoteric knowledge, no secret to the universe.

The truth is believe in Jesus and he will give us eternal life.

The thief, i.e. Barabbas, comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. But Jesus came so that we could have life and have it to the full.

Let us not ask for a fake Jesus – someone or something that we think will solve all of our problems instantaneously. Who convinces us that violence is the answer; that we hoard for ourselves; that serving is unnecessary.

Let us surrender to the real Jesus, who calls us to love as Jesus loved, washing feet and healing people. To believe in that the death of Jesus on the cross was for our forgiveness and we have been set free from sin and death.

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. For revival all across the nation. For coming together and returning to righteousness and justice. For good leaders who serve the people and not money.

Thirdly, pray for our church that we may grow. To grow bold and courageous to invite everyone to come worship. To grow unafraid to lead and serve in ministry.

Lastly, pray that we may know the truth. And the truth is believing in God and trusting in Jesus leads us to eternal life. May we see Jesus clearly and no longer be deceived by the world.

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.