

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

So Will I (100 Billion X) – Hillsong United

<https://youtu.be/oLURTVUQoTM?si=weBIU1PFzPS0Neea>

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God of creation
There at the start
Before the beginning of time
With no point of reference
You spoke to the dark
And fleshed out the wonder of light

And as You speak
A hundred billion galaxies are born
In the vapour of Your breath the planets form
If the stars were made to worship so will I

I can see Your heart in everything You've made
Every burning star
A signal fire of grace
If creation sings Your praises so will I

God of Your promise
You don't speak in vain
No syllable empty or void
For once You have spoken
All nature and science
Follow the sound of Your voice

And as You speak
A hundred billion creatures catch Your breath
Evolving in pursuit of what You said
If it all reveals Your nature so will I

I can see Your heart in everything You say
Every painted sky
A canvas of Your grace
If creation still obeys You so will I

If the stars were made to worship so will I
If the mountains bow in reverence so will I
If the oceans roar Your greatness so will I
For if everything exists to lift You high so will I
If the wind goes where You send it so will I

If the rocks cry out in silence so will I
If the sum of all our praises still falls shy
Then we'll sing again a hundred billion times

God of salvation
You chased down my heart
Through all of my failure and pride
On a hill You created
The light of the world
Abandoned in darkness to die

And as You speak
A hundred billion failures disappear
Where You lost Your life so I could find it here
If You left the grave behind You so will I

I can see Your heart in everything You've done
Every part designed in a work of art called love
If You gladly chose surrender so will I

I can see Your heart
Eight billion different ways
Every precious one
A child You died to save
If You gave Your life to love them so will I

Like You would again a hundred billion times
But what measure could amount to Your desire
You're the One who never leaves the one behind

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

Today's reading comes from [John 19:1-8](#).

Humans have this nasty tendency to destroy anything they don't understand.

Pilate, not being able to understand who Jesus is, immediately sends him out to humiliate him and torture him. In a twisted sense, Pilate continues to treat Jesus like a king albeit a defeated one.

This is evidenced by the "crown" and "purple robe" that Jesus is given. He is presented to the people. And again, in astonishing irony, this is Jesus' coronation. Crowned, robed, presented to the people – and while it is all done in mockery, yet it is the spiritual reality.

The truth is Jesus truly is king, and humans in their sin and blinded by evil failed to recognize him.

In the scripture passage, we are tempted to excuse Pilate because he was trying to free Jesus. But ultimately, he did not. Pilate is a coward. And to release himself for that shame, he humiliated and tortured an innocent man.

The passion of Jesus is always difficult to read. Not just because we can't imagine such cruelty. But also, because it's difficult medicine to swallow. An honest mirror that we can't deny.

We are all capable of the same evil. The same failure to recognize Jesus as king, the same rejection of Jesus, the same mocking of Jesus, the same condemnation of Jesus, the same crucifixion.

Perhaps, some of don't have the guts to do it physically, but how often do we fear the strange and stranger? How often do we feel anger at someone who doesn't do it "our way"? How often do we join in the words that tear down people, nation, and races?

Let us to be convicted that people are created in the image of God, even those who are our enemy.

This past Sunday, in the pastoral prayer, I prayed

We confess, are the ones that bring ignorance and exclusion, bring thoughts and words that tear down and destroy, that drive nails into the hands of the weak and vulnerable, rendering them unable to fend for themselves.

Wee confess, that sometimes, that we are the ones who drives a spear into the other and into the different out of fear that we might lose our hegemony.

We would rather crucify those who would try to compel us to think and act in new and transformed ways, than to actually be transformed and renewed in love.

We confess, that we are the ones who put Jesus on the cross, and it is our sins that held him there.

Let this be our confession this morning and ask for forgiveness and mercy, which are new every morning.

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 Ohio. That God would bless our state. For good leadership who make good decisions to benefit everyone, not a select few. For revival, as God moves in ways we can't always see.

Thirdly, pray for our church and our leadership. For eyes to see God's vision. For ability to carry out the mission. For passion to not give up.

Lastly, pray that we be deeply transformed. For the forgiveness Jesus offers with his blood to wipe clean all our sins. For evil to be completely rooted out of us..

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.