

Come Let Us Worship Together...

(please go through this all out loud and together)

WORSHIP IN PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for today. Thank you for helping us get through this week, but also for helping us make a difference in people's lives this week. Thank you for loving us well this week, but also for helping us actively and consciously love others well. Please help us grow to do that even better and more thoughtfully in this coming week.

In Jesus' name we pray, *Amen*.

WORSHIP IN SONG - *Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery...*

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us
Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand
Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured love untold
Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliv'rance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

SCRIPTURE READING

from **Psalm 71** Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man... When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God... I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

WORSHIP IN SONG - *Be Unto Your Name...*

We are a moment, You are forever
Lord of the ages, God before time
We are a vapor, You are eternal
Love everlasting, reigning on high



WORSHIP IN SONG - *Be Unto Your Name...* (continued)

Chorus: Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name
Be unto Your name
We are the broken, You are the healer
Jesus Redeemer, mighty to save
You are the love song we'll sing forever
Bowing before You, blessing Your name
Chorus

WORSHIP IN PRAYER

Wendy shares the Pastoral Prayer this Sunday. Please pray along with her in spirit.

WORSHIP IN SONG - *Wonderful Merciful Savior...*

Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men
Chorus: You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for
Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way
Chorus
Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness, You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne
Chorus

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION FOR AFTER THE SERVICE

1. What sorts of ways can we be tempted to want to distort (or at least to want to try not to think about) various Scriptures to better fit our existing personal paradigms? Be specific.

What sorts of ways can we be tempted to apply double standards to the same equations to better fit our existing personal paradigms (i.e.; loving or hating things that we had the opposite response to when connected to other variables)? Again, be specific.
2. Why are we so often willing to adapt or amend our external, seemingly objective assessment tools when they don't come up with the conclusions that we'd like them to have? But then why do we still want to pretend that we're applying them as our seemingly objective assessment tools? What's the benefit of feeling guided by a map that we can so easily change to give whatever directions that we're more comfortable with?
3. Why do you think that people like Jesus or James or Paul all so consistently taught us to start by focusing on letting God change *us* before we ask Him to change the people and conditions *around* us? How can verses like Romans 12:2 or Psalm 139:23-24 help remind us to reorient ourselves toward letting God and His priorities set the tone for our own priorities? How can we pray for one another to do that better and more consciously?