

Worship on April 5th, 2020 – online stream (or record and upload on youtube)

Order of worship

1. Announcements
2. Song – This little light of mine
3. Prayer before worship
4. Scripture reading
5. Message
6. Prayer of the people
7. Benediction
8. Include “ponder upon” questions



Announcements:

. This recording is for the worship of April 5th, 2020 because of the closure of church building due to Coronavirus Pandemic.

. This is Palm Sunday. It is the last week of the Lent. It's called the Passion week because Jesus suffered this week before he was crucified on Friday. I sent out Good Friday meditation Power Power Presentation with series of Youtube videos. Please watch in sequence and think about what you feel in your heart after watching all of them. Please check our website, the presentation will be on our website. I will add the church website on the description below.

Our first song is a children song. But, it's got a great message in it. In this hard time, let us know our source of light and life and let it shine through our lives.

SONG – This Little Light Of Mine

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine

Let it shine let it shine let it shine

Jesus is my light I'm gonna let it shine

Jesus is my light I'm gonna let it shine

Jesus is my light I'm gonna let it shine

Let it shine let it shine let it shine

Prayer for worship

Loving Father God, we thank you for today's worship. You gave us life and you gave us light and power to shine our light to display your glory. Father God, open our eyes so we know that we have your light, your life, and your power because that's who we are. As we worship you through this online video, we ask you to come into our hearts and stir our hearts. We like to calm down. We like to feel comfort, but stir our hearts. Challenge our lives. So, we think about the light we have in us and try to carry out our light and try to show your glory to our surroundings through our lives. It is very hard to see this pandemic situation all around the world. Like a children song, "He's got the whole world," we confess that you are embracing this whole world and this situation in your arms. We know that you are the God who are with us. You are the God who comforts us. You are the God who takes care of your creation. Heavenly Father, teach us and show us your teaching lesson through this global disaster. But, still, give us faith that you are in control of everything. Help our

weak faith. Holy Spirit, guide us and walk with us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Isaiah 41:8-14 (NRSV)

8 But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

9 you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off";

10 do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

11 Yes, all who are incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish.

12 You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them; those who are against you shall be as nothing at all.

13 For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."

14 Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you insect Israel! I will help you, says the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: Comforting God

What is the message from today's scripture?

Israel! My people! I chose you and I called you! You are this small, and I am this big, but still, I know you, I see you, and I will help you.

I saw you in the farthest ends and I went to pick you up and I brought you to my

place!

This is today's message.

How are you doing in this global pandemic? My heart is becoming sick and tired of staying home and I started to fear of this situation. I thought it would end much sooner, but the impact of this coronavirus is truly unknowable at this moment.

I am hearing sufferings from people because of this. Health issues, relational issues, financial issues, and spiritual issues. I hope and pray that we can overcome this difficult situation together.

This is Palm Sunday. It is the last week of Lent. And it is the Passion Week. We call this week Passion week because the suffering of Jesus was in this week. Jesus was mocked, beaten, betrayed, ashamed, crucified, and died.

If they don't observe the Lent, many churches try to remember Jesus in this Passion week for his sacrifice for us out of the love for us. So, as we suffer from staying home and from the fear of coronavirus, let us try to be calm and try to look upon Jesus.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, people cried out for him. They welcomed Jesus. They put down the Palm tree and their clothes so Jesus did not step on the dirty ground. And they bowed down to him. People thought Jesus would save them. They did not have independence. They were governed by Roman authority. So, they thought Jesus would be their political leader and change their political situation. That is why they cried out "Hosanna."

Hosanna means "Save us, Lord." They cried out to Jesus to save them with wrong perspective. Surely, Jesus fed their hunger. Jesus healed with his healing power. Jesus taught the truth. So, they followed him. But, in few days, they were changed. They cried out to him, not "Hosanna," but, "Crucify him, crucify him." Out of anger

that Jesus was not their political leader. In this Passion week, let us remember what Jesus had to go through and what our expectation is to Jesus. May God open our hearts and eyes in this Passion week. So, we have the truth. May God's light shine in our hearts.

Today's sermon title is Comforting God. May God's peace and comfort fill your hearts through this message.

When you are stressed out, what do you do?

Years ago, when my wife and I only had our first child, I was a student and my wife worked full-time. So, I was the main caregiver. My mother lives with us, so when I was at school, she was able to take care of our first son. But, sometimes, I had to stay late and my wife had to stay late. We tried our best it didn't happen at the same time, but things happen. So, one day, she had something, and I had something. So, we both had to be out in the evening. You know what's amazing for kids, they don't know how to read the clock, but they have sense of time. My wife usually came back home around 6 o'clock. When I was with my son around that time, I can tell he was waiting for his mom. He looked at the door frequently and he couldn't focus on his play.

On that day, we both had to come home late, our son was not able to sleep. Out of the long wait, he was dissatisfied and stressed out from our absent. He was not able to sleep well that night. He clung to his mom all night. We have very very hard time comforting him. On the next morning, my wife had to go to work before my son was up. When he woke up, he woke up crying, badly. So I held him in my arms, heart to heart. I held him and comforted him.

How would you comfort a crying baby? What would you say to him?

I told him, "It's okay, it's okay. It's me your daddy. I love you. I will be with you. And I will hold you. You are safe. You are loved. You are okay. Everything is going to be fine.

I held him and told him this over and over for about 20 minutes.

Finally, he calmed down and we slept together a little more.

When I was comforting him, I thought, "Aha! This is what God is doing for me."

When I turn my eyes to something else, when I lose the focus from God, this is what my Heavenly Father would do to me. When I am so stressed out and when I don't know what to do, and when I become vulnerable, God would think, "This is my time to hold him. This is my time to come to him and comfort him. I will let him know that I am his God."

If a baby cries, would you just leave him alone until he stops crying by himself? The baby would be exhausted and tired by the time he stops crying by himself.

Not many of us would leave a crying baby alone.

Mere human would not leave a crying baby alone. Then, what about our Heavenly Father God?

So many are experiencing changed and challenges because of coronavirus. Businesses are different, schools are different, social life is different, and our church is different as well. Everything we planned is different because of coronavirus. How do you manage yourself in this? We are like a crying baby now. Every single person is experiencing changes and challenges. Every society of the whole wide world is

experiencing changes and challenges. We don't know what to come next. We don't know when the school will begin again. We don't know when we will be able to enjoy our favorite meals in restaurants. We don't know when we will be able to meet our favorite people and gather together and have fun. We don't know when we will be able to gather in our church building and worship God together and have our fellowship time.

Unforeseeable future. We are adults and we are not crying babies. But, what's different? We are trained not to cry and we are trained to accept challenges and changes. Just that. And we are the same as the crying baby, not knowing what to come and not being satisfied with this current situation.

What do we need is the same as what a crying baby needs.

We need comfort. We need love. We need to be accepted. We need to be encouraged.

Remember my son's story? When he was up with crying so badly, what did I do? Did I look up the Bible to find out some best verses to read to him to comfort him? Or did I google how to stop a crying baby?

No, I did not go through the Bible or did not ask google.

I had my love for him already and I already knew what to say to him.

When I held him to comfort him, at the moment, I realized, "Oh God... I am yours. You would do the same to me as I do to my loving child."

What do you do when we get stressed out? When you are angry? Sick of your life? Depressed? Who do you seek? Where do you go?

What causes you become afraid? What makes you feel uncomfortable? Try to compare that with God's promise. Come to God and find out what God stores for

you. Go to the Bible and please get to know God. He is pouring out his love for you in whatever circumstance! Accept his love.

These are today's **Ponder Upon Questions.**

- 1) When I get stressed out, what do I do?
- 2) What is my fear in my life, especially in this pandemic situation?
- 3) What is the promise of God for me from today's scripture reading?

God is there for us. God is waiting for us. God is watching over us. God is taking care of us. Please know that God is with you. God loves you. God comforts you. God is seeking the opportunity to communicate with you all the time. Please accept God and enjoy God.

Let us pray.

God of love and grace, thank you for who you are and thank you for what you are ready to do for us. This is the beginning of the Passion Week. Help us remember your suffering and sacrifice for us. As we stay home, help us find some quiet time for you, so we stay calm and still, in your presence, to experience your comfort.

Continue to pray for the Prayer of the people

In this difficult situation, we need you. This coronavirus teaches us how weak we are. Technology is greatly developed, but still we fall because of the small virus. Help us know how small and weak we are. We need you, Lord.

You are the God of all people and all places, God in all situations and every time. You are the light of the minds that know you. You are the strength of those who serve

you. You are the power of the hearts that know your love. We confess to you that we need you.

We pray to you for the people who are suffering because of the coronavirus. Many are experiencing physical pain and many are experiencing emotional distress. Also, many are dying. Many are saddened. Many are heartbroken. Many are tired. Many are afraid. Many are hopeless.

God of hope and love, shine your light upon us. Fill the whole earth with your power and glory. Come into each of our heart, and make yourself known to us. You are the Lord. You are God. You are Creator. You are the source of power. You are the Healer. You are the Provider. You are the Comforting God. With your love, fill the whole earth. And fill each heart that longs for you. We pray for the healing and restoration from this coronavirus pandemic.

Still, there are many who are fighting for it in the frontline. As the fight lasts, they are short of safety equipment and as more people are confirmed with the virus, they are short of medical staff and supplies. Fill their needs and provide the supplies, and help them to be well treated. Protect the frontline workers. And help those who are suffering from the sickness.

We pray for those who are commuting. We pray for the people who are staying home. Protect them with safety. Give peace and encouragement. Fill their hearts with your love. Provide them what they need and help them support their lives.

We pray for our church. There are many who need prayers. Help us pray for each other and help us to maintain our spiritual belongingness. Help us know you and help us worship you with all our hearts. We long to gather again as faith community. Give us patience and power to hang in there.

God of love, we seek you face. We need your presence. Be with us. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

This song I'm about to sing is a new song for me. I learned it from my friend's facebook post. And this melody stuck in my head and I had to learn this song. This is Build My Life. With the comfort of God, I hope and pray that you can build your life in him.

Build My Life

Vs. 1

Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, oh, we live for You

Vs. 2

Jesus, the name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, we live for You

Chorus

Holy, there is no one like You, there is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and

Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart

And lead me in Your love to those around me

Bridge

And I will build my life upon Your love, it is a firm foundation

And I will put my trust in You alone and I will not be shaken

As we build our lives, remember that God is our firm foundation.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

And the Love of God,

And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

Be with us all, now and always.

Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions

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