

Worship on June 14, 2020

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Announcements:

. This worship is for Sunday, June 14, 2020. I hope and pray that God speaks to your hearts through this worship.

. Curbside meeting – we will meet and chat outside our church building in the bench area near the side doors. If we can arrange the time between 12-2 on Tuesdays and Fridays, we will meet in person. Please wear facemask and let us try to keep the safe distance. To meet me, please email me or phone me to make the appointment. revsoonghuh@hotmail.com / 647-208-5381. If it's too hot in the midday, let me know, then we can change the time.

. Thank you for the offerings dropped off at the office door and through Pre-Authorized Remittance. (PAR) – and you can check out website to start giving to the LORD.

. We are not doing the Armour of God series today because I would love to share something I learned this week. It's about singing songs to the Lord. A very small thing is changed in my life and I am singing and praising to the Lord all day and all week long! Stay tuned!

Let us worship God with our voice!

SONG – Father In Heaven

Prayer for worship

Heavenly Father, we love you. We love to be with you. We love to come to your presence and worship you with praises and worship. Through our worship, be praised and be glorified.

We are a little worried about the reopening of churches. Ontario is beginning to reopening church buildings as of last Friday. There is no cure yet and the virus could be everywhere. Please help your church to save lives not endanger lives as they re-open their buildings. For us, now, we don't know yet when we can come back to our building, in-person worship. But, that's okay. We will still worship you through this online video. As we come to you right now, Holy Spirit, come into our hearts and give power to worship you with our whole hearts. Be praised and be lifted up as we give you our worship to you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Psalm 57:1-11

- ¹ Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
until the destroying storms pass by.
- ² I cry to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
- ³ He will send from heaven and save me,
he will put to shame those who trample on me. *Selah*
God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness.
- ⁴ I lie down among lions
that greedily devour human prey;
their teeth are spears and arrows,
their tongues sharp swords.
- ⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth.
- ⁶ They set a net for my steps;
my soul was bowed down.
They dug a pit in my path,
but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*
- ⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast.
I will sing and make melody.
- ⁸ Awake, my soul!
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn.
- ⁹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to you among the nations.
¹⁰ For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.
¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth.

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

Title: Sing praises to the Lord

These days, not many things make us happy. Where do you find your happiness? Life seems to be stopped because of the Pandemic. No school. No work. No picnic. No travelling. No parties. No friends. Nothing is allowed because of the virus. No church gatherings. We are staying home. Yes TV. Yes snacking. Yes boring. Yes arguing with family members. Yes another TV time and Yes tiredness for nothing.

I do come to church three times a week. Tuesdays and Fridays are my working days. I do my ministry and prepare worship services. And Sunday, I bring my family to church to do online children worship. My family are privileged to be able to come in to church building. Thank you and I am sorry not being able to share this opportunity.

Although we have a great privilege, we are still bored. We still struggle, even with the beautiful infant baby at home. Life is not a fairy tale, but it's real. There are struggles whether there's COVID 19 or not, whether we can go out and enjoy this weather or not.

So, question. What makes you happy in this time of Pandemic?

OR what made you happy before all this?

Recently, I saw one of my friends' Facebook posting. He shared a YouTube channel. It's all in Korean. So, it's no use for you if I shared it with you. But, still, I will add the link for the channel on the description. This channel is owned by a couple. The couple uploads worship songs. They play and sing. Very simple instrumental play and only voice. Very simple but very heartfelt. Sometimes the husband sings and the other times wife sings. Even since I learned about their

YouTube channel, I frequently listen to them whenever I have time. And I hum all day long. In other words, I worship God through these songs all day long. I praise him all day long. It changes my life attitude. It gives me energy from inside. It strengthens my inner being.

Let us take a look at today's scripture. Psalm 57 starts with agony. It's written by David and he is in trouble. It's David's habit that he starts his psalm with misery. He comes to God with complaining about his difficult situations. He pours out his bitterness before the Lord. And from some point in his psalm, the tone and the mood of the psalm turn around. He praises God and he thank God for God's love.

This is similar to our prayers. Usually, we come to God in our brokenness, in our misery, in our troubles, and in our desperateness. When we pray to God, what happens? God speaks to us. God opens our eyes. God helps us realize who we are and who He is. Then we realize that we are standing before the great God. We come to the knowledge that God is holding our lives. We suddenly experience the love of God from our deepest inner being.

Then, our misery becomes our praise. Our brokenness, our weakness, our selfishness, and our darkness become nothing because of God. They lose their importance. They become meaningless. Because of the love of our God, because of the greatness of our Father, our trouble becomes very tiny. We still cannot handle them, but it doesn't matter any longer because our God will take care of them.

This is the pattern of David's prayers. And this should be our prayers as well.

Listen to Psalm 57 once more. **NLT**

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection.
I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until the danger passes by.

² I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.

³ He will send help from heaven to rescue me, disgracing those who hound me. *Interlude* My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.

⁴ I am surrounded by fierce lions who greedily devour human prey—
whose teeth pierce like spears and arrows, and whose tongues cut like swords.

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens! May your glory shine over all the earth.

⁶ My enemies have set a trap for me. I am weary from distress.

They have dug a deep pit in my path, but they themselves have fallen into it. *Interlude*

⁷ My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident.

No wonder I can sing your praises!
⁸Wake up, my heart! Wake up, O lyre and harp!
I will wake the dawn with my song.
⁹I will thank you, Lord, among all the people.
I will sing your praises among the nations.
¹⁰For your unfailing love is as high as the heavens.
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
¹¹Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.
May your glory shine over all the earth.

Up to verse 4, David was struggling. His heart was experiencing darkness and desperation. But, verse 5, all of the sudden, David lifts up the Lord. V6, situation doesn't change. The problems are still there. But, situation is changed not by something David can do, but by the power of God. V6, "My enemies have set a trap for me. I am weary from distress." – nothing has changed. "They have dug a deep pit in my path, BUT they themselves have fallen into it." Did David do anything? NO.

Not every prayer is answered in the same way. Not every situation is turned around like this one. But, this shows the change of the perspective of David. The situation is the same. This time, his enemy was fallen into their own trap. But, they will continue to hate David. One mistake will not stop them. One failure does not change people. But, God changes our perspectives and changes our lives.

I experienced a very small change. I started listening to worship songs. From this, I hum praises all day long. I think about the words all day long. Also, because I sing the songs all day long, my kids learn the praise songs and they hum the songs I sing. When they play computer games, they sing "What a beautiful name it is." How wonderful it is!

Very small change. It does not take much time. It does not require too much effort. I listen to praise songs when I wash dishes. I play YouTube praise songs, on the balcony, when I drink coffee. It takes 5 minutes. And this 5-minute changes my day and week and my family members.

What directs you to the Lord? As I shared, listening to worship songs for 5 minutes a day initiates me to think about God more. I would like to ask you to listen to worship songs or read a

short Bible verses or read some passages that lead you to the Lord. One helpful tool I am using every day. When you go to Biblegate.com, you can subscribe one verse a day. Every morning, when I check my email, I have one Bible verse. It's not the most powerful way to read the Bible, but at least, you get something from the Bible. When I miss my daily reading, but still, I have something. There are many different ways for our eyes and hearts fixed to the Lord. Try one verse a day, try to listen to worship songs, and try to find your own ways to invite God into your lives.

Stay in the Lord like David with your life issues. Bring matters to God. God may give your insight. Don't miss any small things in your hearts. It may trigger your life to be changed in the Lord.

Let us pray.

Loving Father God. David came before you with his life's troubles. He did not try to hide his bad feelings from you. He just let it out before you honestly. Help us learn his honesty. We want to come to you with our honest feelings, issues, agonies, troubles, and difficulties. Especially, this time of pandemic, there might be more things to say to you. Give us wisdom so we don't miss out anything we need to talk to you and give us time to come to you. I shared my experience of changing my thoughts and life. Singing praises to you give me energy and happiness. Let all the people who are worshiping with us experience the same. Fill our hearts with the praises to you. Fill our hearts with joy of salvation, gratefulness of your love, hope for your kingdom, and peace of yours. There are so many good things about you. Because of our difficult situations, we become blinded to your goodness. With your guidance, help us get rid of all the hindrances blocking our relationships. After the worship, our hearts may be filled with joy and praises, but when we turn off this worship video, it's the same life. But, God, help us know that we are different now. The situations are the same, but our hearts are different. Our minds are different. Heavenly Father, keep remind us that you are with us and you are holding our hands and you are walking with us and you are taking care of our lives.

Prayer for the people.

Gracious Father God, we pray for this Pandemic. There are many who are suffering because of this disease. And there are many who lost their lives. There are many who are ill. There are people who cannot work and make earning for their lives. There are so many people who are scared of this. How long will this last, Lord? When can we get back to our in-person worship in our church building safely? Some people are not cautious of this situation, not wearing masks and do all kinds of things with contacting others. The confirmed cases are not decreasing. Heavenly Father, help us. Help us be careful and help us follow the safety measures. Help researchers when they develop the cure for this virus. Give them wisdom.

We pray for students. What can they do! They are in panic. School is closed but their learning shouldn't be stopped. However, it is too hard to carry on their learning alone. Give them wisdom and help the teachers to develop good education systems. Also, we remember those who do not have access to online studying devices. Help them. Life is not fair, but we need to try to give some opportunities to those who are not privileged. Let many people rise up for the equal rights of opportunities.

Black lives matter. Yes. Help us stand up for the justice. Help us speak out for the right things. Help us treat others in the way that we want to be treated. We want respect. We want loved. We want cared. We want to stop discrimination. Holy Spirit, come into our society, stir our hearts, and work in our social and mental structure. Let love and respect prevail. Please, God, protect the protesters with safety and pour out your peace in every heart.

We pray for elderly people. It is dangerous for them to do anything because of the virus. Help them to keep the masks on and sanitize their hands and items.

Remember frontline workers including medical service workers, food-chain workers, transportation workers, and all workers who are endangering their lives to help society going.

And we are praying for your church, all churches around the world. It is hard to maintain to be church. Although we cannot meet as much as we want, help us be connected to each other through many different means as possible. So, let us encourage each other so we can stand strong in you. Also, there are needs to maintain as healthy church. Fill our needs.

Especially, the churches in Ontario is opening again. Virus is still out there and there might be virus carriers without symptoms. We need to be really careful. Give us wisdom when we come back to our buildings. There will be new norm. Heavenly Father, we don't know what to do. Help us.

Please remember our congregation. Few days ago, one more of our beloved member was called to your eternity. Please provide your peace and encouragement to the family and our congregation. It is sad that we lost our friends. However, Lord, they are in your hands. Please fill our hearts with the hope for the eternity. There are many who need prayers. Thank you that we have prayer chain. Strengthen us so we can pray to you continuously and sincerely. There are many who are going through grief from the loss of their loved ones. Be with them. Give peace in their hearts. Fill their hearts with hope. There are Martha's Table in our church building. Protect them safely, first of all. And when they prepare meals for the people, fill their hearts with joy and gratefulness. And for the people who are receiving, fill their hearts with thankfulness and happiness. Thank you for the gracious service of the people and the great means of connecting to one another. Please remember each member of our church and protect us with safety and fill all our needs. As we worship through this online video, please come into our hearts when we come and ask for your grace and love. Be with us with your presence. Guide us as we worship you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Song – The steadfast love of the Lord – a good song to hum all day long

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:

1. What are my favorite worship songs?

2. What is my favorite Bible verse that I carry in my heart?
3. Can I make the time with God to experience the change of life?
4. What am I occupied with when carrying out my daily life?

YouTube channel I mentioned:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWYW0HIOAV3U1sjPPsT7dA/videos>