

Sunday, July 26, 2020

The Story of Us

****Please take a few deep breaths to center yourself, light a candle, and do what you need to do in order to create an atmosphere of intentional worship****

GREETING

OPENING SONG

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee UMH #89 (lyrics below)

OPENING PRAYER {by enfleshed}

Beloved One, come and kindle in us a passion for life. Though struggles may surround, do not let us grow weary of dreaming. Keep us alive to our longings for collective abundance. Until the earth and all its creatures are restored to wholeness and harmony, may we persist in pursuing the lure of your love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-6, 11 (NRSV)

¹These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

SONG

In Christ Alone W&S #3105 (lyrics below)

SERMON

CLOSING SONG

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) (lyrics below)

CLOSING BLESSING {by enfleshed}

In the deepest places within us, God has woven us together.

Our yearnings cannot be fulfilled in isolation.

Our longings turn us toward collective transformation.

The desires of our hearts lead us to connection and belonging.

Alive to the Sacred lure of love within us, we seek right-relationships with all the creatures and creations that surround.

In the assurance of God's blessing upon these holy endeavors, go in peace.

Song Lyrics

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

UMH #89

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angles sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teaching us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortal, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward,
In the triumph song of life.

In Christ Alone

W&S #3105

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme or plan
Can ever pluck me from his hand.
'Til he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Song Lyrics

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name
Bless You Lord

And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will

Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore
Forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name
Yes I'll worship Your Holy name
I'll worship Your Holy name

Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name
Jesus I will worship Your Holy name
Worship Your Holy name