

January 11- Written Service

Special Music- Esperance Tsana

Praise Team- Katie Kirby, Jeremy Russell, Merlin Thompson

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: God has done great things, and He puts a new song in our mouths, a hymn of praise to our God.

All: Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him!

Leader: As we gather, let us bring our testimonies of His goodness. Even when life is hard, let's choose to praise the Lord.

All: We will praise the Lord and continually praise Him!

Song: Shout to the Lord

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing

Power and majesty, praise to the King;

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar

At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,

Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand;

Nothing compares to the promise

I have in You.

My Jesus, my Savior,

Lord, there is none like You

All of my days I want to praise

The wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my Shelter,

Tower of refuge and strength;

Let every breath, all that I am,

Never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing

Power and majesty, praise to the King;

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar

At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You.

Prayer

Song: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm thro' the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when striving cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

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 of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I stand.

Announcements

Special Music- Down at the Cross sung by Esperanze Tsana

Congregational Prayer

Song: #169- Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (vs. 1,2,5)

Rejoice, ye pure in heart;
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.
Your festal banner wave on high-
The cross of Christ, your King.

Rejoice, rejoice,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

With all the angel choirs,
With all the saints on earth,
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
True rapture, noblest mirth!

Rejoice, rejoice,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Praise God who reigns on high,
The Lord whom we adore;
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost--
One God forever more.

Rejoice, rejoice,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song: Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Psalm 40

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. ¹I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. ²He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. ³He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him. ⁴Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. ⁵Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done,

the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare. ⁶ Sacrifice and offering you did not desire— but my ears you have opened— burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. ⁷ Then I said, “Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll. ⁸ I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.” ⁹ I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know. ¹⁰ I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly. ¹¹ Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me. ¹² For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me. ¹³ Be pleased to save me, Lord; come quickly, Lord, to help me. ¹⁴ May all who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. ¹⁵ May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” be appalled at their own shame. ¹⁶ But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, “The Lord is great!” ¹⁷ But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.

Message

Scripture-Psalm 40

Continuing our series on new beginnings, we turn to Psalm 40, especially looking at verse 3

“He put a new song in my mouth”

Listen as we read it for what that new song will be

U2 40

This psalm is the source material for U2’s song 40

For years, they would close concerts by inviting the crowd to sing this song along with them

Take a listen

What song are you singing

Each of us, with our lives is singing a song

What song have you been singing?

What song will you sing this year?

2 songs in this Psalm

We can break Psalm 40 into 2 songs

Do we sing about the slimy pit, the mud and mire?

Or do we sing the new song that God has put in our mouths

The hymn of praise to the One who steadies our steps and sets our feet on a solid rock

I went through Psalm 40 and color coded what belongs to each of the two songs

Here are the themes that emerged

Song of the slimy pit

Mud, mire, slime, pit

Sacrifice, burnt offerings (working harder, outward appearances of faith)

Pride, false gods (trusting in ourselves or trusting in anything that is not God)

Troubles, impact of my sins

Those who want to harm me
New song
God acts/saves/rescues
God is righteous, loving, and faithful
I sing that song, tell of His goodness
We can sing about what's wrong with the world
We can sing about ourselves
We can sing about stuff and selfishness and sin
We can sing about suffering, whether it's caused by other people or by my own bad choices
But all of these songs ultimately focus on me
What I'm experiencing, what I want
And it feels like quicksand, sucking us down and holding us back from any kind of rescue
Or we can sing a new song
One focused instead of God
Who He is and what He has done
How do we sing a new song
It gets so easy for us to be stuck singing the same old song over and over
Songs about muck and mire, pits filled with slime
How do we change the dial?
How do we start to sing a hymn of praise instead?
From Psalm 40, it begins with God
If we're going to sing about God's work, the song itself has to be written by what we've seen God doing
God puts the song in our mouths
These new songs are our response to God doing something new in our lives
To change our tunes, we need to stop focusing on everything else and look at where God has been at work
How have you seen God demonstrate His love, faithfulness, and righteousness
Where have you seen God rescue you
The more we focus on these things, the more they become the songs we sing
What impact does this new song have?
The Bible says that when we sing God's new songs "many will see and fear"
Not in the horror movie sense, but in the sense that they will see and revere God
See what He's done in our lives and be amazed at Him
Our world is full of people singing songs from the slimy pit
Living lives that tell stories centered on self, on greed, on what's broken in this world, on all of the things that promise hope and fulfillment but turn out to be empty words
The people in our lives are longing to hear something different
To hear songs of hope and salvation

Songs of love and faithfulness

To encounter people who have something more to share, something higher to live for

Our opening question one more time: what song have you been singing?

U2 ends their version of 40 by having the crowd sing "How long, to sing this song?"

How long will we keep singing the old songs, stuck in the old patterns?

Living those same old lives

When will we begin to sing a new song?

Maybe this is the moment God puts a new song in your mouth

A song that the world needs to hear

A song that leads others to see God at work and be awestruck by Him

Song: #21- O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vs. 1,2,3,5)

O for a thousand tongues to sing

My great Redeemer's praise,

The glories of my God and King,

The triumphs of His grace.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,

That bids our sorrows cease,

'Tis music in the sinner's ears,

'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,

He sets the prisoner free;

His blood can make the foulest clean;

His blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,

Assist me to proclaim,

To spread through all the earth abroad,

The honors of Thy name.

Benediction

Postlude