

PREACHING AND SINGING THE GOSPEL EACH DAY

# THE SOLID ROCK

## SOLID ROCK

Preaching the gospel to myself each day nourishes within me a holy brazenness to believe what God says, enjoy what He offers, and do what He commands.

Admittedly, I don't deserve to be a child of God and I don't deserve to be free of sin's guilt and power. I don't deserve the staggering privilege of intimacy with God, nor any other blessing that Christ has purchased for me with His blood. I don't deserve to be useful to God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am and I have what I have, and I hereby resolve not to let any portion of God's grace prove vain in me!

And to the degree that I fail to live up to this resolve, I will boldly take for myself the forgiveness that God says is mine and continue walking in His grace.

This is my manifes-to, my daily resolve; and may God be glorified by this confidence that I place in Him."

-- Milton Vincent

## THE OFFERTORY

WHO YOU SAY I AM • EAST COOPER ORCHESTRA

**BOOK RECOMMENDATION:**  
A Gospel Primer For Christians  
By Milton Vincent  
Available at:  
[www.wtsbooks.com](http://www.wtsbooks.com)

## CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

### BABY DEDICATIONS

ADELINE KATE BUHLER  
KATARINA ELIZABETH JEAN BROWN  
GRAHAM ELLIOT GILMORE  
GRAYSON COLE GILMORE  
OLIVER THOMAS GROOMS  
OWEN ZACHARY KEIPER  
ELIZABETH KATHRYN ZUMBRUNNEN

### PRAYER FOR TEACHERS

### THE MORNING SERMON

CONRAD "BUSTER" BROWN, SENIOR PASTOR

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### RESPONSE HYMN

ASK YE WHAT GREAT THING I KNOW

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

# THE IMPORTANCE OF CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

MATT MERKER (Excerpts)

The New Testament describes singing as a corporate activity. A hallmark of those who are filled with the Holy Spirit is that they address "one another" in song (Ephesians 5:19). Why? Because singing is an avenue for Christian love. Consider Colossians 3:16, Paul's famous teaching on singing, in its broader context:

*Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:14-16)*

There are countless threats to the unity of the body (Colossians 3:6-9). Paul knows that brothers and sisters may have "complaints" against each other (Colossians 3:13). What does it look like to foster a community of forgiveness and love? One important part of the answer, according to verse 16, is the singing ministry of each member. In other words, Paul has just signed up every believer for the choir.

Remember, each week we gather as wounded people to have our spiritual sores treated by the Great Physician. In his mercy, he uses our songs to apply his sweet balm.

The Christian enduring persecution from his biological family needs to hear the dozens or hundreds in his spiritual family sing, "Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee."

The believer struggling hard against shame needs to watch you exult, "My sin, not in part, but the whole, has been nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more!"

The saint overburdened by work, striving, and performance needs to listen as you affirm, "We rest on Thee, our shield and our defender."

Of course, we don't only address one another as we sing. Ephesians 5:20 and the psalms of praise teach that God is the primary audience of our songs and melodies.

But raising your voice to edify others is, in fact, precisely one of the ways we exalt God's worth. By singing, we beckon our brothers and sisters to delight in his beauty.

Since one of the main purposes of corporate singing is to build others up, music gives us a wonderful opportunity to "count others more significant than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3). If the words are true, excellent, and beautiful, try to engage with every song, even if it's not your favorite genre. You might just find that the joy you see on others' faces helps you appreciate the song for its ability to edify people who have different tastes than you.

We sing because Christ first loved us.  
We love because he first loved us.

May we do both as we gather with his beloved bride each week.



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# WORSHIPGUIDE



# EAST COOPER BAPTIST CHURCH

The Church in Corporate Worship | AUGUST 11, 2019

Please use the following prayer to prepare your hearts for worship:

This morning we come to bless the Lord our God as we lift up His name in worship, celebrate the Gospel, and give thanks to Him for His goodness and mercy.

Let us come before His presence with singing and shouts of joy!

## REFLECTION

### THOUGHTS FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION

My emotions have been a bit up and down lately. I've been writing songs in fits and starts, leaving chords and scribbled notes in papers on the piano, unfinished and forgotten. This is an especially dynamic time for our family as we have recently welcomed a new baby. But as we shift into this new season of life, I find I am once again comforted by chords and lyrics, by the act of praising and worshipping God through them. I find rest when I call to mind these words from the psalmist: "For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does" (Psalm 33:4 NIV).

Our God has made all things with His own hands, and with every new season and turning of our lives, He invites us to sing a new song to Him. In the midst of all these changes, I try to live in the moment, to be present and take it all in stride.

But the thing about living in the moment is that it's wrapped up in the weather, the mood I'm in, what I ate for lunch, how much sleep I've had, or how stressed I am about work obligations. Emotions are the fuel and the energy of our daily rhythms; they provide the movement of our lives. Created by God, our emotions are good and can teach us things about who we are, who our God is, and who our neighbor is; however, in and of themselves, our emotions are not trustworthy and ought not be left in charge to guide our lives. This is where worship can come into play.

Worship can lasso the wild horses of shame, gladness, anger, loneliness, and sadness and then corral them inside the fence of truth. Worship is restorative; it is the corrective to our emotional ups and downs. It turns the disharmony of our circumstances into the resonant harmonies of a new song. Worship is not just about living in the moment; it is an honest look at who we are in light of who God is, of where we've been and where we are going.

Through worship and song, God invites us into a deeper relationship with Him. He reveals more of Himself through the act of worship, and as a result, our spirits, minds, and bodies are realigned to His reality—not what we perceive our circumstances to be through the lens of emotion. God provides and sustains in all things, and He teaches us to sing new songs of praise, new ways to worship Him within each new twist and turn of life, in times of both joy and sorrow.

There's an old gospel hymn that says, "I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free." But when we go through times of difficulty or transition that are disorientating, how do we keep worshipping? When awakened in the middle of the night with a newborn baby, or rising in the morning after a break-up, or standing on the grass at a loved one's funeral, or in the slow delays of a long illness—how do we keep on singing?

It takes faith to believe in what we cannot see, to sing ourselves forward into hope. Worship is the practice of faith, of aligning our spirits with God's kingdom reality; singing is what comes out on the other side. These words seem to spring up out of a deep well of gratitude within the psalmist, who says, "Hallelujah! How good it is to sing to our God" (Psalm 147:1).

-- A DEVOTIONAL BLOG FROM SANDRA McCracken, SINGER/SONGWRITER - August 2019:

## PRELUDE

ELENA CRUDGE, ORGANIST

## MORNING WELCOME

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

PSALM 96:1-10a

## THE CHORAL RESPONSE

COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE SINGING EAST COOPER CHOIR

Come before His presence with singing and shouts of joy to all of the earth let the rivers clap their hands and let the mountains sing together now for joy!

Come and make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation now let us come into His presence make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

## O COME MY SOUL, BLESS THOU THE LORD

TIDINGS

Musical notation for the first system of the hymn, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

- 1. O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord thy Mak - er, and all with -
2. Good is the Lord and full of kind com - pas - sion, most slow to
3. His love is like a fa - ther's to his chil - dren, ten - der and
4. We fade and die like flow'rs that grow in beau - ty, like ten - der
5. High in the heav'ns his throne is fixed for - ev - er, his king - dom

Musical notation for the second system of the hymn, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

- in me bless his ho - ly name; bless thou the Lord, for - an - ger, plen - te - ous in love; rich is his grace to
• kind to all who fear his name; for well he knows our grass that soon will dis - ap - pear; but ev - er - more the rules o'er all from pole to pole; bless ye the Lord through

Musical notation for the third system of the hymn, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

- get not all his mer - cies, his par - d'ning grace and all that hum - bly seek him, bound - less and end - less
• weak - ness and our frail - ty, he knows that we are love of God is change - less, still shown to those who all his wide do - min - ion, bless his most ho - ly

Musical notation for the fourth system of the hymn, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

- sav - ing love pro - claim. as the heav'ns a - bove.
• dust, he knows our frame. Bless Him for - ev - er! His praise pro - look to him in fear. name, O thou my soul.

Musical notation for the fifth system of the hymn, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

claim! All that is with-in me, O bless His Ho - ly Name!

### THE SCRIPTURE CALL TO WORSHIP

Biblical worship is always a response to God's gracious revelation of himself to his people.

Therefore, our worship services begin with a scriptural "call to worship" (that is, the content of the "call" comes from God's own Word spoken or sung by the leader and congregation.)

Our worship, then, is a reflexive and deliberate response to His gracious call.

### WITH SINGING LIPS MY MOUTH WILL PRAISE YOU...

As the music of the Gospel, our songs offer us instruction and expression - and a vehicle for praise.

Whether psalm or hymn, old or new, we sing about the truth of God, and we sing to the God of Truth.

Let your voice be heard as we together sing our praise to the Lord as an offering of worship, a prayer from our heart, and as a witness to the world.

...Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day." I Chronicles 16:23

### A REASON TO SING GOD'S PRAISE

If life be long, I will be glad, That I may long obey;

If short, yet why should I be sad to welcome endless day?

Christ leads me through no darker rooms than He went through before;

He that unto God's kingdom comes must enter by this door.

Come, Lord, when grace hath made me meet Thy blessed face to see;

For if Thy work on earth be sweet what will Thy glory be!

Then I shall end my sad complaints and weary sinful days, and join with the triumphant saints that sing my Savior's praise.

My knowledge of that life is small, the eye of faith is dim; but 'tis enough that Christ knows all, and I shall be with Him.

-- Richard Baxter (1615 - 1691)

## SCRIPTURE PROCLAMATION

BASED ON PSALM 145

LEADER: We will extol you, our God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day we will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

CONGREGATION: There is no end to His greatness!

LEADER: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, we will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and we will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

CONGREGATION: All your works praise You, Lord, and your faithful servants bless You!

LEADER: Our mouths will speak the praise of the LORD, Let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

CONGREGATION: Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, Bless His holy name!

## ALL THE EARTH VERTICAL WORSHIP

From the rising of the sun To the ending of the day One name alone be praised Every nation tribe and tongue All creation lifting up Your name alone we raise

Praise the Lord All the earth, all the earth Bless His name Only one name, now and always

Jesus, You have rescued us You are good and You are just One name alone be praised From the heights and from the depths In every heart with every breath Your name alone we raise

Every sky is filled with wonder All creation lifting higher The only King who reigns forever Who is like our God, Who is like our God

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER TIME

### PRIVATE PRAYER IN A CORPORATE SETTING

You may use the following prayer as a catalyst for your own prayer of thanksgiving and praise we we bless the Lord together.

Our Great God, I bless your holy name today. I thank you for your goodness, thank you for your crown of steadfast love and mercy. I recognize all that you have done for us, all that you continue to do now, and all that you will do in the future. Thank you that your plans for us are good and that you renew our strength like the eagle's. Thank you that you have redeemed our lives from the pit, you have forgiven our sin and healed all our disease. You are Restorer of the broken, Healer, and Redeemer. You are Father, you are Friend, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness. You are Faithful, you are True, you are Powerful, you are forever with us. You are Holy, you are Worthy, and we worship you this day, and always... In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## PRAYER RESPONSE

### BUILD MY LIFE

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

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

Holy, there is no one like You There is none beside You Open up my eyes in wonder Show me who You are and fill me With Your heart and lead me In Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love It is a firm foundation I will put my trust in You alone And I will not be shaken