

Welcome and Introduction

Hello and welcome to our online worship service, which you can access the video on YouTube by clicking on the link or copying and pasting to your browser. I'm Andrea Moises, Pr. Claudio's wife and the mother of Saulo and Becky. We thank you for joining us at the comfort and safety of your home, either alone or with your family members. Let us all worship together the One who's worthy of our Praise and is with us all, not matter where we are right now. David described so well about the overwhelming presence of God in Psalms 139, which is one of my favourite passages in the Bible. I would like to read the first 6 verses of this beautiful prayer.

1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Open Prayer

Father God, we thank you for being this All-knowing God. You know us better than we know ourselves, all our thoughts and actions, and yet You love us, embracing us as we are. We praise You for that; for Your faithful presence in our lives. May Your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together, bringing us closer and closer to You, because we are Your people, called by Your name. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Song 1 – At the Cross – Hillsong (Darlene Zschech and Reuben Morgan)

<https://youtu.be/icmHBODALrQ> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Oh Lord You've searched me, You know my way;
Even when I fail You, I know You love me.
Your holy presence, surrounding me
In every season, I know You love me;
I know You love me.*

*At the cross I bow my knee,
Where Your blood was shed for me,
There's no greater love than this.
You have overcome the grave,
Your glory fills the highest place,
What can separate me now?*

*You go before me, You shield my way,
Your hand upholds me; I know You love me.
And when the earth fades,
Falls from my eyes, and You stand before me,
I know You love me; I know You love me.*

You tore the veil, You made a way
When You said that it is done.

Song 2 – Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) by Chris Tomlin

<https://youtu.be/Jbe7OruLk8I> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see*

*It was grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*

*My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, My Saviour has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns.
Unending love, amazing grace*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who call'd me here below,
Will be forever mine
(Will be forever mine)
(You are forever mine)*

Preaching and Teaching

The Value of One Soul (Mark 4:35-5:17)

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

5 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.^[a] ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” ¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

Introduction

What is the value? How much do you think would be the value? Would there be a price tag for a soul? Jesus says that a soul has more value than the whole world! How valued and precious we are for Jesus and he loves us. He gave his own life so we could live. **“What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”** **Matthew 16:26** The Bible also tell us that there is joy when a sinner repents. God loves the lost and he goes after them. He leaves the 99 and goes after the lost sheep. And when he finds it, he rejoices because one person has an immeasurable and accountable value for God. **“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. Luke 15:7**

I – Jesus Crossed the Sea for One Person

“Let’s go to the other side” Jesus said to his disciples. This man symbolized people from all the nations. There are chains of all kinds around him. Jesus went to set this man free. Last week on November 11, we remembered all those who died in the line of duty. They sacrificed their lives for our freedom and their names are written in different monuments in our cities. Another man crossed the sea and this time was to fight a war. There is a story in the USA of a soldier who was finally coming home after having fought in Vietnam. He called his parents from San Francisco. “Mom and Dad, I’m coming home, but I have a favour to ask. I have a friend and I’d like to bring home with me.” - “Sure,” they replied, “we’d love to meet him.” - “There’s something you should know” the son continued, “he was hurt pretty badly in the fighting. He stepped on a land mine and lost an arm and a leg. He has nowhere else to go, and I want him to come and live with us” - “I am sorry to hear that, son. Maybe we can help him find somewhere to live” - “No, Mom and Dad, I want him to live with us.” - “Son,” said the father, “you don’t know what you’re asking. Someone with such a handicap would be a terrible burden on us. We have our own lives to live, and we can’t let something like this interfere with our lives. I think you should just come home and forget about this guy. He’ll find a way to live on his own.” At this point, the son hung up the phone. The parents heard nothing more from him. A few days later, however, they received a call from the San Francisco police. Their son had died after falling from a building, they were told. The police believed it was suicide. The grief-stricken parents flew to San Francisco and were taken to the city morgue to identify the body of their son. They recognized him, but to their horror they also discovered something they didn’t know. Their son had only one arm and one leg! Our love is being tested every day! Do you love the lost? I pray that God will fill our hearts with His love. How much do people mean to you? How much is a person really worth? It was for this man that Jesus went to the other side. Try to imagine the rejection, the pain, the suffering of this man’s parents. Seeing a son completely lost and possessed by evil spirits. How many people are like him today in our city? Many young people are addicted to drugs and alcohol. There are many people facing depression, loneliness, and many are in despair and without hope. Many are also slaved in false religion, which can’t save them. Jesus is the Saviour of all who call on his name. God wants all of us to be saved! The apostle Paul writing to Timothy says: **“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior,⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people.”** *1 Timothy 2:1-5* Peter said in Acts: **“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”** *Acts 4:12* Jesus said... **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** *John 14:6* Now Moses...²⁹ **But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.** *Deuteronomy 4:29* Some may ask - what about those people who have never heard? What about those tribes in the middle of a jungle without any witnesses or even contact to civilization? David said in one his Psalms... **“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.** *Psalms 19:1*” I read a book that speaks about how God wants to reveal himself to those who seek him. This book talks about a royal man, a very important

man and he was in charge of the treasures of his kingdom. He took care of all the gold, silver and the queen's crown and he wants to know God because he sees God in creation. He fears God so he travelled and went up to Jerusalem to worship in the temple. Now he is on his way home, but he is about to meet the King of Kings. God needs a witness, because someone He loves wants to know more about him in the desert. God searches for someone, somewhere around the world who will be available to go. Someone wanted to know God, God sent a missionary, and his name was Philip. The book was written by Dr. Luke after the Gospel of Jesus and he titled it Acts of the Apostles. Philip explains the Gospel to the Eunuch from Ethiopia and he gave his life to Jesus and he was baptized. God wants to reveal himself to all who seek him

II – Jesus Demonstrated His Love for This Man

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16...“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.” John 3:19 The Bible talks about three types of love: Eros (Romance Love); Fileo (Brotherly Love) and Agape which is (Self - Sacrificial). You can have a self-sacrificial love for sin. People sacrifice themselves for sin all the time. Just as Jesus laid down his life for the world, many people are laying lives to all kinds of sin. God wants all to come to repentance so that no one will perish. It doesn't matter the darkness, God's love for us is sacrificial. Jesus laid down His life for us. Love is a choice and there is a price to pay for it. “What is your name?” Jesus asked the young man. That man answered him with a number. ***“My name is Legion”***. In the ancient Roman army, a legion meant a division of 3000-6000. God knows us by name and we are not just a number. Satan likes to lie to us about our value. We are all created in His image and likeness. And He knows us by name and God relates to us as individuals.

III – A Great Storm for Freedom

“There was a great storm for the freedom of that man. ***“A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”*** We can't imagine the dimension of the spiritual warfare. The truth is that we are on the business of winning souls to Christ. Satan then will try everything to stop us reaching out to others in love. Jesus was in the boat with his disciples and he rebuked the storm. They arrived safely to the other side to meet that man. I remember one of my first outreaches with YWAM. We were sharing the Gospel on the streets of Curitiba, Brazil during the Carnival. We set up different tents in the main square where the people were passing by and in one of these tents there was an intercession team, praying all the time. There was also a team waiting to pray and give a Bible to anyone who would accept Jesus. I was in the team that was sharing the gospel. During the Carnival in Brazil, people get into a lot of drugs and alcohol and many really sacrifice their lives for sin. They spend the whole year preparing for it. They build expensive allegoric cars and they save money the whole year in order to buy their costumes so they can enjoy the party. During those 4 nights, there is no limit for what they can do. I remember talking to a young man about Jesus and suddenly he became possessed by evil spirits and he ran away from us screaming. My friend who was with me ordered him: “you are bounded in name of Jesus. We couldn't see, but it was like an angel had

taken the man's hands and bounded him with an invisible rope. He fell down on the ground and people came near him, full of curiosity. Other people would also fall and my friend continued giving orders. You should go quiet now and stand and go to the intercession tent. There we had moments of spiritual warfare and we saw Jesus delivering them from evil spirits. It was lovely to see some of them being delivered and professing their faith in Jesus. Others, however, didn't want to confess Jesus in order to be free. For three days and four nights we were there reaching out to souls. The fact is that there is always an invisible warfare going on in the world.

III – The Price Was Too High

Unfortunately, we see in the text that the price was too high for the people. They saw the man free, however they couldn't rejoice with him. Their focus wasn't on Jesus, but on the cost of this man's freedom. They lost the pigs, it cost the farmers a lot of money. Those pigs were their life's resource. ***“Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.” Mark 5:16-17*** Would you invite Jesus to stay if it meant to give part of your income? How many pigs would you be willing to give for one soul? God gave it all, He sent Jesus, His one and only son to die. “Do you love me? Keep my commandments. Go and preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations”, said Jesus. What price are you willing to pay for our community to be transformed by Jesus? Would you invite Jesus to stay?

Conclusion

God loves the nations as he wants all to be saved. There is a world out there that needs to hear the gospel and Jesus is inviting us to go out of our comfort zones and cross with him to the other side. He wants us to be engaged in His mission of reaching out to the lost. There are people in our city who are in similar conditions. They are bound in all kinds of chains: false religions, drugs, alcohol, loneliness, depression and having no hope. Jesus wants to set them free and he needs a missionary church to go and find ways to share the good news. However, there will be a cost and the question is: Are we willing to consider paying for the price, so those lives can be free? Are we willing to give our lives and our resources to Jesus and invite him to stay even if it would cost us money, time and our lives? Let this season be an outreach one for all of us. May we all be praying and inviting our families, relatives and our neighbours to join us to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. May this Christmas be an opportunity for us to point many to the love of God.

Response Prayer

Dear God, I pray for your church to love you sacrificially, I pray that we will be ready to give it all to you in order to see our families, relatives, and neighbours finding their way back to Jesus. Lord we want to be ready like Philip to share and explain the Gospel to anyone who is seeking you. Lord I pray for your Holy Spirit to empower us, so that we be fully engaged in reaching out. Lord, please help us to love you and be willing to pay the necessary price in order to see people coming to Christ.
In Jesus' name, Amen

Song 3 – Above All Powers

<https://youtu.be/Q7EPZV56PuA> - Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Above all powers, above all kings,
Above all nature and all created things,
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.*

*Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,
Above all wonders the world has ever known.
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
There's no way to measure what You are worth.*

*Crucified, laid behind the stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a Rose, trampled on the ground
You took the fall, and thought of me
Above all*

Final Prayer and Apostolic Blessings

Let us finish our service by praying together the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Have a blessed week and see you next Sunday!