

I See Jesus In You

Paul made sure when he wrote the church at Colossae that Epaphras was commended. Apparently, Epaphras prayed with such force and intensity for that church that Paul referred to it as wrestling. And Paul commended him for it.

This morning we get a chance to commend each other. How have you observed Christ in others in the day to day, week to week ministry in and around this church body? We will give you an opportunity later in the service to stand and encourage us by highlighting how you have seen God working in and through someone else.

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

Psalm 57:7-11

Praise The Living God

PSALM 145

LEADER

I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.

CONGREGATION

Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.

LEADER

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.

CONGREGATION

One generation will commend your works to another;

they will tell of your mighty acts.

LEADER

They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

CONGREGATION

They will tell of the power of your awesome works,
and I will proclaim your great deeds.

LEADER

They will celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

CONGREGATION

The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

LEADER

The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

CONGREGATION

All you have made will praise you, O LORD;
your saints will extol you.

LEADER

They will tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might, so that all men
may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

CONGREGATION

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

LEADER

The LORD is faithful to all his promises
and loving toward all he has made.

CONGREGATION

The LORD upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

LEADER

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.

CONGREGATION

You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

LEADER

The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and loving toward all he has made.

CONGREGATION

The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

LEADER

He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.

CONGREGATION

The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

ALL

My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.
Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Thanks and Praise from the Congregation

Now And Forever

Faith glorifies the love of God, for when the storm is at its height, the tempest we are in the middle of is in reality love in disguise. So we don't just

sing "fair-weather" songs, appropriate for times when all is well and the favor of God seems relentless.

Blessed be his name, he must be right even when he seems at cross purposes with his people; we are not going to quarrel with him, like two year olds who want their way, just because he does not happen to grant us every desire of our foolish hearts.

Though he slay us we will trust in him, much more so if he declines our requests. We ask him for our daily bread, and if he withholds it we will praise him. Our praises are not tied to his answers to our prayers.

LEADER:

Even in times when it seems like no matter how hard I try,
there is just not enough income to go around....

CONGREGATION:

YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD

LEADER:

And though I have a difficult family to spend this Thanksgiving with.....

CONGREGATION:

YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD

LEADER:

Though the price of homes continually challenges me to trust God
for a place of my own....

CONGREGATION:

YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD

LEADER:

Though the degree program I am pursuing is long and drawn out,
with the end a fluxuating question mark.....

CONGREGATION:

YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD

LEADER:

Though my marriage is not yet what I had hoped for.....

CONGREGATION:

YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD

LEADER:

Though marriage seems a distant possibility, with no current possible husband or wife even in the picture.....

**CONGREGATION:
YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD**

LEADER:
Though a child of mine is not pursuing you,
and seems to be chasing after the world instead.....

**CONGREGATION:
YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD**

LEADER:
Though in our culture sin seems to be having a field day, and righteousness is dismissed as simply personal preference.....

**CONGREGATION:
YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD**

LEADER:
Though certain sins in me refuse to be rooted out,
and the work of sanctification in me has miles to go.....

**CONGREGATION:
YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD**

LEADER:
Though the days this life has afflicted us
seem to outnumber the days of God's favor.....

**CONGREGATION:
YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD**

LEADER:
Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls....

CONGREGATION:
YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD
I will be joyful in God my Savior.
The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to go on the heights.
Malachi 3:17-19

Blessed Be Your Name

OFFERING
All People That On Earth Do Dwell

I See Jesus In You

NOTE: This service is simple and scary at the same time. All that is intended here is that we highlight specific instances in which we have seen the love of Jesus displayed through others, who may or may not be present in the room. This is not about ourselves, unless it is to reveal specifically how God has used someone else to minister to you. Be short and to the point. Use names, have the person stand, if possible. Yes, they will be embarrassed. But the point is that God is working through them, and that it is God who is getting the glory.

The Glory Goes To You