

August 24- Written Service

Praise Team- Julie and Charlie Shanafelt, Lindsay Hunter, Merlin Thompson

Special Music- Emma Jensen and Brooke LaDage

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: God, you search me and know me. Before I sit, you know when I will rise.

All: God, you search me and know me. Before I speak, you know what I will say.

Leader: God, you search me and know me, in my joy and despair, in my breathing in and breathing out.

All: God, you are all powerful. Your knowledge is too deep to reach and too vast to comprehend.

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

Song: Indescribable

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea

Creation's revealing Your majesty.

From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring,

Every creature unique in the song that is sings.

All exclaiming:

CHORUS

Indescribable! Uncontainable!

You placed the stars in the sky, and You know them by name;

You are amazing, God!

All powerful! Untameable!

Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim:

You are amazing, God!

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go;

Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?

Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light,

Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?

None can fathom:

CHORUS

You are amazing, God!

Prayer

Song: Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail.

And there I find You in the mystery, in oceans deep,

My faith will stand.

CHORUS

And I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine.

Your grace abounds in deepest waters,
Your sovereign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now.

CHORUS

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
Let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior.
(repeat)

I will call upon Your name, keep my eyes above the waves.
My soul will rest in Your embrace.
I am Yours and You are mine.

Announcements

Special Music: Jesus Loves Me sung by Emma Jensen and Brooke LaDage

Congregational Prayer

Song: #23- The God of Abraham Praise (vs. 1,3,4)

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
The Ancient of eternal days and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed:
We bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy," cry, "Almighty King!"
Who was and is the same and evermore shall be:
Eternal Father, great I AM, we worship Thee.

The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high:
"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.

Hail, Abraham's God and mine! With heaven our songs we raise:
All might and majesty are Thine and endless praise.

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song: Sanctuary

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Jeremiah 32: 16-27

"After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the Lord: "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the father's sins into the laps of their children after them. O great and powerful God, whose name is the Lord Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to all the ways of men; you reward everyone according to his conduct and as his deeds deserve. You performed miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, both in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still yours. You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with great terror. You gave them this land you had sworn to give their forefathers, a land flowing with milk and honey. They came in and took possession of it, but they did not obey you or follow your law; they did not do what you commanded them to do. So you brought all this disaster upon them. "See how the siege ramps are built up to take the city. Because of the sword, famine and plague, the city will be handed over to the Babylonians who are attacking it. What you said has happened, as you now see. And though the city will be handed over to the Babylonians, you, O Sovereign Lord, say to me, Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.'" Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

Message

Intro-Questions

God's omnipotence gives rise to a lot of questions

Can God create a rock so big He can't lift it?

If God is all good and all powerful, why is there evil?

Why doesn't God just poof the evil away?

What we mean by omnipotence

Can do all things in line with who He is

Cannot sin (would cease to be holy God)

Lots of examples of this in Scripture

We'll talk about a few other examples later, but we're starting today with Jeremiah

Jeremiah 32:16-27

Unpack this passage

Jeremiah is told to buy a field prior to going into exile

Which doesn't make much sense

You're defeated, you go into exile to be assimilated or destroyed

The idea of rising back to any kind of power where you could return home and lay claim to that field again is ludicrous
But think of what else God has all done...

Why prophet focuses on God's power

When being asked to do something that makes no sense, it's good to remember the knowledge and power of the One making the request

Jeremiah highlights God's particular power

Those things we have seen

Then moves to His general power

God's power everywhere, visible to everyone

To this day-in verse 20

God has done and is doing these things TO THIS DAY

God's power continues to be at work

Sometimes we don't have eyes to see it though

We get so caught up in the struggles of the moment

When we question God's power, it's often because of our struggle with His timing

The middle

We believe that omnipotence is just part of what it means to be God

For most people, the problem is usually more doubting that God uses this divine omnipotence more than doubting that He has the power

Or how He uses this may not always make sense to us

Where we are in the story

We are in the middle of a story being written by an all-powerful God

At times, we get glimmers of hope and glimpses of God's promises fulfilled

These confirm for us God's omnipotence and give us hope for the final, fully realized manifestation of that power as it has restored creation once and for all

But most of our lives (so far) are lived in the middle times

We see examples of God's miraculous power in people's lives in Scripture

What we almost never see in the Bible are the normal days

The years and years of struggle and sickness and defeat and death

We see and focus on the highlights, the miracle that comes eventually

Biblical examples

Jeremiah buys a field before being exiled to a foreign land, but God will bring Israel (and him) back

Sarah giving birth at 90 after a lifetime of infertility

Sarah and Abraham spent most of their long lives in the middle of the story

Israel fleeing Egypt on dry ground as the pass through the Red Sea

After being enslaved for hundreds of years

The sun standing still in the sky while God's army defeats its enemies

Elijah vs. prophets of Baal

God who responds with fire is God

But Baal's prophets have been taking over and in control for years at this point

Jesus walking on water

Food from heaven
Water from stone
Lazarus returning from the dead
 Why didn't Jesus raise everyone from the dead (just Lazarus in a suburb and
 some nameless children in the villages)
The middle is where we live
 And the middle is often the hardest place to be
 But God is at work, TO THIS DAY
How we find comfort in God's omnipotence
 So why do we pray?
 Because sometimes, God does respond with a miraculous yes
 And sometimes, God uses prayer to help us become involved in how He's
 working
 We pray for change in our communities and homes, through those times of
 prayer God gives us more of His heart for where we live
 We pray for our enemies, God helps us to love to them
 And the results from those prayers are God's powerful hand in our lives and the
 lives of others around us
But maybe the most comforting part of God's omnipotence is the same as His omniscience and
His omnipresence
 We only know what it is to have limits and flaws
 But we can trust, especially when life gets tough, that God knows better than we do,
 that He is with us through these days, and that He is fully able to bring this story to a
 good and perfect ending

Song: #210- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (vs. 1,2,4)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires all have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the "amen" sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

Benediction

Postlude