

May 4- Written Service

Praise Team- Julie Shanafelt and Charlie Shanafelt, Melanie Jacobsen, Merlin Thompson, Jeremiah Thompson

Special Music- PRC Bells with Jim Zuercher, narrator

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: When our paths seem uncertain, let us remember the example of Paul and Silas, who found God's presence even in prison.

All: Let us open our hearts to hear God's word and find joy in His presence, no matter the circumstances.

Leader: Just as they sang praises to God in the darkness of their cells, let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving, knowing God is with us always.

All: Let us come before Him with joyful hearts and open minds, ready to be transformed by His grace.

Song: We Bow Down

You are King of creation and Lord of my life,

Lord of the land and the sea.

You were Lord of the heavens before there was time,

And Lord of all lords You will be!

We bow down and we worship You, Lord.

We bow down and we worship You, Lord.

We bow down and we worship You, Lord.

Lord of all lords You will be!

You are King of creation and King of my life,

King of the land and the sea.

You were King of the heavens before there was time,

And King of all kings You will be!

We bow down and we crown You, the King.

We bow down and we crown You, the King.

We bow down and we crown You, the King.

King of all Kings You will be! You will be!

Prayer

Song- Lord, I Need You

Lord, I come, I confess, bowing here, I find my rest.
Without You, I fall apart. You're the One that guides my heart.

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Every hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.
Where grace is found, is where You are.
Where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Every hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need You.

So teach my song to rise to You when temptations come my way.
When I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Every hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need You.

You're my one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness.
Oh God, how I need You.

Announcements**Congregational Prayer****Song: #437- Send the Light! (vs. 1,3,4)**

There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave,
"Send the light! Send the light!"
There are souls to rescue; there are souls to save.
Send the light! Send the light!

REFRAIN

Send the light, the blessed gospel light;
Let it shine from shore to shore!
Send the light, the blessed gospel light;
Let it shine forevermore.

Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound,
"Send the light! Send the light!"
And a Christlike spirit everywhere be found;
"Send the light! Send the light!"

REFRAIN

Let us not grow weary in the work of love;
"Send the light! Send the light!"
Let us gather jewels for a crown above;
"Send the light! Send the light!"

REFRAIN

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song: Sanctuary

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Special Music: "Paul and Silas" played by the PRC Bells; narrator- Jim Zuercher

Scripture: Acts 16: 25-34

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

Message

Acts 16:25-34

Disciples in jail a lot

After Easter, after the ascension (Jesus returning to heaven), His followers get arrested a lot
Plenty of stories in Acts about disciples getting thrown in jail

Lots of the letters in the NT are written from jail

A couple other examples from Acts

Listen for differences

Acts 5:17-25-Peter & apostles arrested-angel released them, went to courtyard

Acts 12:5-11-Peter in jail-angel freed him

Have to think that Paul and Silas knew about these stories about Peter

If that's true, the differences between Peter/John and Paul/Silas are even more striking

Singing and praying

Remain in Jail

Impact of Paul and Silas's approach

On the other prisoners

They heard these two men praying and singing

They also got first hand seats to God's answer to those prayers

These other prisoners must have been impacted by these supernatural events in the middle of the night

On the jailer and his family

This man's life was quite literally saved because they stayed

But it goes further, he follows that up by asking how he can be saved

Since his life was already preserved, he must mean something more

He's asking about his eternal salvation

How can my soul find salvation

This man now cares for them

And he is baptized along with his entire household

All this because they spent their time in jail singing and praying

And they chose to think about those around them

Even as they themselves were suffering and in danger

To me, this stands out even more in contrast with the rest of the prison stories in Acts

This is not a negative commentary on Peter

He did as the angel directed him

But the differences between the stories do highlight something we can learn from

How do we respond to difficulties? How do we act on our worst days?

A lot of the time, we pray that God would make things easier

That my problems would go away

In all honesty, my prayers are a good window into how self-focused I get during hard times

Things are mostly about me

And way less about God (except for how He can help me out) or other people

But what could God do with us in those situations?

If we would focus on how He can use us right where we are, instead of just waiting for Him to take us out of the struggles

I spend a significant amount of time in waiting rooms

Which is not the same as early Roman prisons
But it is an opportunity to focus on those around me
To be a blessing, to speak life and encouragement
Thought about this a few years ago, but needed this passage as a
reminder

How often do we see people who are going through hard medical situations and
continue to praise God and bless others?

They are always such an inspiration to me and strengthen my faith by seeing
theirs

Stories of Christians in pre-civil war America who sold themselves into slavery

They were free and gave up that freedom in order to share Jesus in real and
meaningful ways with those who were enslaved

Wherever you find yourself today

Especially if life is a challenge

Look for ways to pray (unselfishly)

To praise God

To bless others right where you are, instead of rushing away toward comfort

Song: #480- Only Trust Him

Come, every soul by sin oppressed—there's mercy with the Lord,
And He will surely give you rest by trusting in His Word.

REFRAIN

Only trust Him; only trust Him. Only trust Him now.
He will save you; He will save you. He will save you now.

For Jesus shed His precious blood, rich blessings to bestow;
Plunge now into the crimson flood that washes white as snow.

REFRAIN

Yes, Jesus is the Truth, the Way, that leads you into rest;
Believe in Him without delay and you are fully blest.

REFRAIN

Benediction

Postlude