



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Notes from our Sunday Morning  
Pre-recorded Worship

# Welcome

Welcome everybody! It's great to be with you, We're not in our church building, but we have made our homes into our church and it's great to gather together. Our service today is entitled "A Hopeful Family".

## Song

### We Praise You

#### Verse 1

Let praise be a weapon that silences the enemy  
Let praise be a weapon that conquers all anxiety  
Let it rise let praise arise

#### Verse 2

We sing Your name in the dark  
And it changes ev'rything  
We sing with all we are and we claim Your victory  
Let it rise let praise arise

#### Chorus

We'll see you break down ev'ry wall  
We'll watch the giants fall  
For fear cannot survive when we praise You  
The God of breakthrough's on our side  
Forever lift (Him) (You) high  
With all creation cry God we praise You

#### Interlude

Oh we praise You oh

#### Verse 3

Let faith be the song  
That overcomes the raging sea  
Let faith be the song  
That calms the storm inside of me  
Let it rise let faith arise

#### Interlude

Oh we praise You oh we praise You  
Oh we praise You oh we praise You

## Bridge

This is what living looks like  
This is what freedom feels like  
This is what Heaven sounds like  
We praise You  
We praise You  
(REPEAT)

## Ending

Oh we praise You oh we praise You  
Oh we praise You oh yeah with all Your praise

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# Reading: 1 John 5:1-12

## Faith in the Incarnate Son of God

**5** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup>This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. <sup>3</sup>In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. <sup>9</sup>We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. <sup>10</sup>Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your word, thank you for challenging us during these times, but also leading the way and helping us understand how to walk with you every day. Amen

# Talk by Mike Norris – A Hopeful Family

It's great to be 'with' you today and I hope you're keeping well in these strange times. I don't know about you, but I've found that not everything is bad! I've really got into walking and gone for a long walk each day, which I've really loved. It's a habit that I hope will continue with me after lockdown.

We're continuing our series on the Big Family, focussing today on how we can be a Hopeful family. John says, if you want to be a hopeful individually and also as a church family, we need to "walk" in a particular way.

## **1. If you want to be hopeful, Walk in love (1-3)**

One of John's core themes is love. God is love and as we have seen, God is a loving father and when we come to faith, we become one of his children and join his family.

He reminds us that when we come to faith in Jesus – is it such a radical thing to do – that we are born again into God's family,

*'5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...'*

As people in God's family we are called to love our heavenly Father who loves us, and we are also called to love Jesus too,

*'5 and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.'*

We are also called to love one another (fellow "children of God"). How is that going? How are your relationships at this time? It begs the question: How do you love God and love others?. We love God by obeying his commands,

*'2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.'*

In fact, obeying his commands is the acid test of our love for God,

*'3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.'*

All this talk of God's commands can sound heavy. I am not sure we like all of this talk of obedience. It sounds heavy, authoritarian, a bit crushing, joyless. We assume commands are a bad thing, but they are not. We are getting a puppy and I've been reading up all about it. There is a need to train a dog so that it obeys some basic commands, stop, sit, come back etc. The author of the book is not authoritarian, but there is a need to do this for sake of the family, the house and ultimately for the sake of dog. If it runs off and does not listen or obey commands, there is a high risk of the dog getting lost or run over. A well-trained dog is safe and finds life and life to the full.

Obedying God is how we love God, but it is also how we find life and live to the full and live a significant and fruitful life. And his commands are not burdensome. I think we can often have the feeling that our faith is a pressure, or we are not doing this well, or our prayer life is terrible. We aren't reading our bible enough, we are struggling with behaviour in our own lives. We can end up feeling like our faith is burdensome.

We must remember Jesus' words which John would have heard and which echo in what John is writing,

- *<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Mt 11:28-30*

So, we are to walk in love – obeying Gods commands thereby finding his life. When we do this, we live in hope.

## **2. John says, if you want to be hopeful walk in victory (4-5)**

*<sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has **overcome** the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that **overcomes the world**? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (*

John speaks of two aspects of victory. One, our initial turning away from the world to Jesus (the reference to "has overcome") and second, to the continuing day to day victory of Christians living (the reference to "overcomes"). How are you feeling about walking in victory? When I hear that phrase it makes me think of a medal or this song:

*Be Bold, Be Strong  
For The Lord Your God Is With You  
Be Bold, Be Strong  
For The Lord Your God Is With You  
I Am Not Afraid, I Am Not Dismayed  
Because I'm Walking In Faith And Victory  
Come On And Walk In Faith And Victory  
For The Lord Your God Is With You [2]*

Are you feeling like you are walking in victory? This is a key theme in bible teaching, for example,

***'But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.' 1 Corinthians 15:57***

To be honest I have not spoken to many people in these pandemic times who are thinking that we are walking in victory. People I speak to are feeling tired, zoomed out, and struggling with the present climate of easing restrictions but also a lack of certainty around what is permitted and what isn't permitted. What are responsible choices to be making at this time and what are irresponsible choices?

The vibe seems to be relief that there is an easing but also great confusion and uncertainty too. It is undoubtedly stressful. John knows what it is like to live under pressure. He's watched his closest friend be tortured and die. He knows what it is like to face persecution and he writes about being an overcomer. We need to challenge any cynicism or bitterness. We are victorious, in Christ our past, present and future have changed. God is amazing.

How can we walk in victory?

- *Walk with authenticity*  
Be honest with God about how you are doing and be yourself and real. We don't have to fake it when we follow Jesus. We don't have to always be fine and hide what is happening. Just look at the psalms.
- *Walk with others – just as Jesus did*  
PODs, triplets, and smaller groups been a place where people have flourished in the lockdown.
- *Walk for others – just as Jesus did*  
Do two things for someone else each day and don't tell about them it.
- *Walk in reality*

Own the fact that walking in victory does not mean that you have problems or that you will have a suffering free life. In the midst of the trials, look to Jesus who is the victorious one and is seeking to lead you in victory.

### **3. If you want to be hopeful walk with the Spirit (6-9)**

*<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood —Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. <sup>7</sup>*

What John is doing here is challenging the wrong teaching of some of those in the community to whom John is writing. Some wrongly taught that God descended on Jesus at his baptisms but left him before his suffering on the cross, so that it was only Jesus the man who died. So, John is challenging this and saying that Jesus was fully human and fully God at his birth, baptism and death. This of course is important as his work on the cross depended on him being fully human.

*<sup>8</sup>And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>9</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. <sup>9</sup>*

We are called to walk with the Spirit and to keep in step with the Spirit. It is essential to our spiritual wellbeing. I was out walking the other day when it was hot. I drank a pint of water before I left and thought I would be fine for a couple of hours. Soon, I got quite dehydrated and started to feel tired. I have less energy, started to get a headache and my muscles were aching. The walk was not fun, became a chore and I just wanted to get back home. Without physical water, I became quickly dehydrated and felt the effects of this. The same happens spiritually. We need to be people who walk in the Spirit. God Himself will lead us as we draw closely to His Spirit.

How do we walk in the Spirit?

- Acknowledge Him
- Welcome Him in your life
- Speak to Him
- Ask Him to fill you afresh each day
- Ask Him to lead you and guide you
- To strengthen, encourage and comfort you
- Ask Him to speak to you
- Drink His water moment by moment, day by day

As Christians we have this whole different present and future going on which was won for us through Jesus on the cross.

## Songs

### In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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## **King of my Heart**

### **Verse 1**

Let the King of my heart  
Be the mountain where I run  
The fountain I drink from  
Oh He is my song  
Let the King of my heart  
Be the shadow where I hide  
The ransom for my life  
Oh He is my song

### **Chorus**

You are good good oh  
You are good good oh  
You are good good oh  
You are good good oh

### **Verse 2**

Let the King of my heart  
Be the wind inside my sails  
The anchor in the waves  
Oh He is my song  
Let the King of my heart  
Be the fire inside my veins  
The echo of my days  
Oh He is my song

### **Bridge**

You're never gonna let  
Never gonna let me down  
You're never gonna let  
Never gonna let me down  
You're never gonna let  
Never gonna let me down  
You're never gonna let  
Never gonna let me down

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# Prayers

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you invite us to bring prayer and intercessions before you. We're mindful of the UK economic situation caused by Covid-19, and Father we read this week that people have lost jobs in high numbers. We pray for the families suffering with anxiety over their financial situations; we ask that you'd give these people peace. We pray your provision for new and meaningful work in each of these situations. We pray that you would open doors, and wisdom to our governments in their leadership.

We pray for the situation in Hong Kong. We ask that you'd be with those struggling with tensions. Pray for peace with those in persecuted situations, for the Church in North Korea, Libya, Turkey, Yemen, and China, to name a few. We ask for your strength for Christian brothers and sisters struggling because of their faith.

Closer to home, we lift up personally our family and church members. We also pray for anyone else on our hearts today.

Lord, thank you for hearing our prayers. Please strengthen these people, give them healing and victory in every circumstance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

# Family News

Do contact the Church office if you would like any **personal prayer**, and we'd be glad to organise this for you.

# Thanks for joining us!