



Consecration Sunday

January 12, 2014

Service of Consecration - **A Setting Aside For God's Use and Glory**

(Adapted from Lakebay Community Church Service of Consecration)

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Joshua 4

Message

Crossing The River Part 3
Memorial Markers

Reading Our Relational Covenant (see insert)

(Right side reads bold / Left side reads plain / All read italic)

Song

Take Us to the River

Verse 1

Take us to the river
Take us there in unity to sing
A song of Your salvation
To win this generation for our King
A song of Your forgiveness
For it is with grace that river flows
Take us to the river
In the city of our God

Verse 2

Take us to Your throne room
Give us ears to hear the cry of heaven
For that cry is mercy
Mercy to the fallen sons of man
For mercy has triumphed
Triumphed over judgment by the blood
Take us to the throne room
In the city of our God

Chorus

For the Spirit of The Sovereign Lord is upon us
This is the year of the Lord

Verse 3

And take us to the mountain
Lift us in the shadow of Your hands
Is this Your mighty angel
Who stands astride the ocean and the land
For in His hand Your mercy
Showers on a dry and barren place
Take us to the mountain
In the city of our God

Friendship Greeting

Children's Message

Song of Praise

Blessed Be Your Name

Verse 1

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful
Where the streams of abundance flow
Blessed be your name

Verse 2

Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be your name

Chorus

Every blessing you pour out I turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord still I will say...
Blessed be the name of the Lord blessed be your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be your glorious name

Verse 3

Blessed be your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be your name

Verse 4

Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering blessed be your name
(Chorus)

Bridge

You give and take away You give and take away
My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be your name

Confession (response in italics)

Lord God, ruler of heaven and earth, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Hear our Prayer

We confess to you, Lord that we are not who we should be. We do not live up to your standards. We like to pretend we have our lives together, that we are obedient to your desires, that we are holy and good and Christ-like. But we are sinful, and we are selfish.

Hear our Prayer

Lord, for the times we have been angry without just cause, the times we have spoken sharp words toward others, when we have hurt those around us,

Forgive us, Lord.

For the times we have made our own preferences and desires the standard for worship, instead of giving you the glory due only to you,

Forgive us, Lord.

For the times we have chosen to remain silent, to avoid sharing your love; when we have ignored sin in our midst because it was easier to keep silent,

Forgive us, Lord.

For the times we have held too tightly to our possessions, when we have been close-fisted with our finances, when we have spent money on ourselves while our fellow humanity is hungry, thirsty, and desperate; for the times we have bought ourselves new toys even while your house was falling into ruin,

Forgive us, Lord.

We receive your love, Lord, but we are not always loving toward those around us. We have judged another, looked with suspicion upon another, laughed at the expense of another, and have allowed prejudice to color our love for another.

Forgive us, Lord.

Lord, for the sins of those who have gone before, many who are no longer here, – for the sins of our past,

Let there be forgiveness, Lord.

For all sins great and small – the pride of eyes, the lust of the flesh, the impurity in our hearts, our stubbornness in thinking we can survive without you, our doubt and fear, the false gods we worship – gods like money and comfort and pride and prestige and popularity; for our false sense of self-sufficiency, the way we battle over personal preferences, for the many ways we have doubted and failed you,

Please, forgive us, Lord.

Silent Prayer

(You received a piece of rice paper and a marker as you entered the sanctuary. During the time of silent confession take a few moments and consider specific sins that you need to confess this morning. These sins may be: things you have done or things left undone; things you have said or things left unsaid; or hurtful attitudes. Jot them down on the paper. As we sing Refiner's Fire, place your paper to dissolve in the water as a symbol of giving your sin to God and receiving His forgiveness)

Refiner's Fire

Verse 1

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold

Chorus

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
Is to be holy, set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy, set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will

Verse 2

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within

Assurance of Forgiveness

Lord, we know you love us. And we know your promise, that if we confess our sins, you are faithful to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We receive your mercy, love, and grace for the wonderful gifts they are. Help us, Lord, for without you, we can do nothing.

Help us to walk in forgiveness, and to live lives that are pleasing to you. Thank you for your mercy. Amen.

Offering

Love Came Down

Verse 1

If my heart is overwhelmed
And I cannot hear Your voice
I'll hold on to what is true though I cannot see
If the storms of life they come
And the road ahead gets steep
I will lift these hands in faith I will believe

Pre-Chorus

I'll remind myself of all that You've done
And the life I have because of Your Son

Chorus

Love came down and rescued me
Love came down and set me free
And I am Yours I am forever Yours
Mountain high or valley low
I sing out remind my soul
That I am Yours I am forever Yours

Verse 2

When my heart is filled with hope
And ev'ry promise comes my way
When I feel Your hands of grace rest upon me
Staying desp'rate for You God
Staying humbled at Your feet
I will lift these hands and praise I will believe

Consecration (response in italics)

When God called the people to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land, God said to Joshua:

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

He also told the people to consecrate themselves because they were about to go to a place they had never been before.

Today, we believe that God is calling us into a new future. We rejoice for his faithfulness during our over 30-year history, but we recognize that there is much work yet to be done. God is calling us to become a healthy missional church. God is calling us to the work of vitality. God is calling us to follow him as he leads us into our future together.

Today we consecrate ourselves to this: We consecrate ourselves to God, to be God's people, and to the future God is preparing for us.

We consecrate ourselves to God:

Almighty God, we don't know the future. We don't know what lies ahead in this journey. But we are your people, and you have called us to walk with you. With your help, we will serve you faithfully. Instead of falling into hopelessness, we will trust you, and we will do our best to obey you. God, you are our God, the only God, the one who holds our future. As Israel committed themselves to following you, as your disciples dropped everything to follow Jesus, so we, too, commit this to you: we will follow as you lead. We consecrate ourselves to you.

We consecrate ourselves to be God's people:

We consecrate ourselves to love one another, to treat each other with respect, to listen and believe the best in each other. We consecrate ourselves to care about those whom God loves: truly all people, but especially the broken, the hurting, the poor, the outcast, and the hungry. We consecrate ourselves to the ongoing work of God: to spread the Gospel everywhere, to worship him in spirit and in truth, to be a people of prayer, to study his Word, to being good stewards of all that he gives us.

We consecrate ourselves to the future God is preparing for us:

Come what may, we will follow God on this journey. We don't know where God will lead, what enemies we will face, what trials may come, what things we may need to let go of, what new challenges we will encounter; we don't know what will change and what will stay the same. As God leads, however, we will accept whatever comes. We gladly lay aside our own visions and dreams for the dreams God has for us. We consecrate ourselves to his dream for us that his Kingdom will come here in our midst, even as it is in heaven.

Memorial Markers

As a tangible expression of their commitment, congregants are invited to take two prayerful memorial actions.

Memorial Marker One:

Stepping up on the Platform: Step up on the platform as sign of following God and crossing over the river to our new future. Take a candle from the basket and gather round the candle box in prayer.

Song

Take My Life and Let it Be

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Verse 2

Take my voice and let me sing
Always only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee
Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry power as You choose

Chorus

Here am I all of me
Take my life it's all for Thee

Verse 3

Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne
Take my love my Lord I pour
At Your feet its treasure store
Take myself and I will be
Ever only all for Thee

Memorial Marker Two:

Light a candle: When the song has ended, take turns lighting candles and placing them in the candle box. Feel free to share a word, pray aloud or silently as you place your candle in the box.

Prayer of Consecration

(adapted from John Wesley's Prayer)

Dear Lord,
I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will.

Rank me with whom you will;
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by you,
Or laid aside by you,
Exalted by you or brought low by you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things
To your pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you are mine, and I am yours.

So be it.
Amen

Closing Song

Mourning Into Dancing

Chorus

He's turned my mourning into dancing again
He's lifted my sorrows I can't stay silent
I must sing for His joy has come

Verse 1

Where there once was only hurt
He gave His healing hand
Where there once was only pain
He brought comfort like a friend
I feel the sweetness of His love
Piercing my darkness
I see the bright and morning sun
As it ushers in His joyful gladness

Benediction