



ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
PERFECT RESTORATION
ACTS 3:1-26
02-28-21

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

Affirmation #10

Because **love identifies with the marginalized and vulnerable**, we will engage individually and corporately with organizations and churches who are mercy and justice oriented to help give tangible expression of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. CCRC will look for ways to encourage and incorporate both “to” and “with” forms of love.

Welcome

Good Morning! We have another opportunity this morning to make much of our risen Savior and Lord, Jesus of Nazareth. While we still face Covid related restrictions to how we gather and worship, we do not face any restrictions on our passion and love for God and one another that is fueled and nurtured by our union with Holy Spirit. May we worship with all our minds (thoughts, knowledge, learning, understanding), hearts (feelings, desires, will, longings) and strength (passion, delight, intentionality). Let these words remind us and invite us to enter into that union wherever we are in our journey of faith this morning as God reveals that he is with us and for us.

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance today!

Call to Worship – Psalm 50:1-11, 22-23 -- A PSALM OF ASAPH

Psalm 50 is a powerful declaration of the might and beauty and abundance and worth of God as God to be worshipped and glorified. We are called to be faithful to this responsibility and delight. Center your heart and mind on him now.

The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.

He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! “Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.

I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.



Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver! The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!

Song – How Great Thou Art -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5-8-cjAuTQ>

*O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on a cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

Song – Hymn Of The Holy Spirit -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgguVaGqHE8>

*Holy Spirit, guide my vision
Help me see the way You see
Always Jesus, ever Jesus
Christ in all is Christ in me
Holy Spirit, guide my speaking
Words of grace in truth abound
Let my lips be filled with stories
Of the mercy that I've found
You're the light
You're my path
You're the shepherd of my soul*



*All I am
All I have
Holy Spirit, lead me on
Holy Spirit, guide my hearing
Wake my ears to words You speak
In the thunder and the stillness
Let Your voice be clear in me
Let Your voice be clear in me
You're the light
You're my path
You're the shepherd of my soul
All I am
All I have
Holy Spirit, lead me on
You're the light
You're my path
You're the shepherd of my soul
All I am
All I have
Holy Spirit, lead me on
Holy Spirit, lead me onward
Walking through the great unknown
Trusting, leaning, holding, clinging
Till the day You lead me home*

Christ Candle – Sri Lanka

We light the Christ candle as a visible sign of God's presence with us; that he has come as light into a world of darkness. We light the Christ candle to remind ourselves that Jesus is the light and that in him we become light too. We are never a light on our own. The light we have and can offer to others is the light of Jesus of Nazareth. May we be God's light in 2021.

Jesus of Nazareth said that to be a Christian means to be maltreated for his name's sake (Matthew 5:11) and the apostle Paul said that "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12). Mistreatment as a disciple of Jesus is not a matter of *if* but a matter of *when* and a matter of *degree*. Hope is a vital aspect of being a disciple of Jesus. This is especially true under heavy persecution. In America, the land of religious freedom, we have it pretty easy in that there is minimal outright persecution against Christians. **May we make the most of our religious freedom to honor Christ and give credible and coherent witness to him! At the same time, may we be aware of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who don't share the same freedom that we do. The 30th place that is most challenging to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is Sri Lanka.**

Of the 21 million people living in Sri Lanka, 2 million of them identify as followers of Jesus Christ. Last year, Sri Lanka saw one of the world's largest coordinated terrorist attacks since Sept. 11, when radical carried out eight suicide bombings at targets that included three churches on Easter Sunday, claiming



almost 300 lives, most of them Christians. However, persecution in the southeast Asian country typically stems from radical Buddhist and Hindu groups that harass and discriminate against converts to Christianity. Additionally, Christian churches are frequently opposed by neighbors, and local officials sometimes demand they close their buildings.

Prayer Points: Pray for families who lost loved ones in last years Easter attacks – that they would sense His comfort and lean into His strength, especially as they approach the first anniversary of the bombings. Pray for provision for the 176 children who lost one or both parents in the attacks. Pray for protection from any further attacks on churches. And pray specifically for the three churches that were bombed.

Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine His light!

Light the Christ candle at this time

Song – We Turn Our Eyes -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgZwsm-3Luk>

*O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see
There is light for a look at the Savior
And life more abundant and free
We turn our eyes, we turn our eyes
See the darkness bow to light
And we will rise, and we will rise
Love has overcome the night
Through death into life everlasting
He passed and we follow Him there
And over us, sin no more has dominion
For more than conquerors we are
We turn our eyes, we turn our eyes
See the darkness bow to light
And we will rise, and we will rise
Love has overcome the night
We turn our eyes, we turn our eyes
See the darkness bow to light
And we will rise, and we will rise
Love has overcome the night!
Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace
In the light of His glory and grace
In the light of His glory and grace!
We turn our eyes, we turn our eyes
See the darkness bow to light*



*And we will rise, and we will rise
Love has overcome the night
We turn our eyes, we turn our eyes
See the darkness bow to light
And we will rise, and we will rise
Love has overcome the night!*

*His Word shall not fail you, He promised
Believe Him and all will be well
Then go to a world that is dying
His perfect salvation to tell*

Song – He Will Hold Me Fast -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=936BapRFHaQ>

*When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.*

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

*Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.*

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

*For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!*

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Centering Prayer – From: Every Moment Holy (Liturgy for those flooded by Too Much Information)

In a world so wired and interconnected,
our anxious hearts are pummeled by
an endless barrage of troubling news.
We are daily aware of more grief, O Lord,
than we can rightly consider,
of more suffering and scandal
than we can respond to, of more
hostility, hatred, horror, and injustice
than we can engage with compassion.
But you, O Jesus, are not disquieted
by such news of cruelty and terror and war.



You are neither anxious nor overwhelmed.
You carried the full weight of the suffering
of a broken world when you hung upon
the cross, and you carry it still.
When the cacophony of universal distress
unsettles us, remind us that we are but small
and finite creatures, never designed to carry
the vast abstractions of great burdens,
for our arms are too short and our strength
is too small. Justice and mercy, healing and
redemption, are your great labors.
And yes, it is your good pleasure to accomplish
such works through your people,
but you have never asked any one of us
to undertake more than your grace
will enable us to fulfill.
Guard us then from shutting down our empathy
or walling off our hearts because of the glut of
unactionable misery that floods our awareness.
You have many children in many places
around this globe. Move each of our hearts
to compassionately respond to those needs
that intersect our actual lives, that in all places
your body might be actively addressing
the pain and brokenness of this world,
each of us liberated and empowered by
your Spirit to fulfill the small part
of your redemptive work assigned to us.
Give us discernment
in the face of troubling news reports.
Give us discernment
to know when to pray,
when to speak out,
when to act,
and when to simply
shut off our screens
and our devices,
and to sit quietly
in your presence,
casting the burdens of this world
upon the strong shoulders
of the one who, alone
is able to bear them up. Amen.



Offering – Pastor Church Resources

Synod 1982 approved the formation of Pastor Church Resources (PCR). Almost 40 years later, PCR has significantly expanded its work. Today, their mission statement is: Pastor Church Resources serves pastors, churches, and classes as they seek to promote healthy relationships, encourage one another in ministry, and discern next steps in seasons of growth, transition, or challenge. Over time the strategies employed by PCR have adjusted to the needs of congregations as well as to the staffing of PCR.

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

Scripture Reading – Acts 3:1-26

With the solid foundation of Pentecost laid for us, we move on in our series, Acts of the Holy Spirit to chapter 3 and begin to see the disciples build on it, that is, live out the truths of Pentecost in their daily lives. And God continues to give visible signs of the miracle of Pentecost to affirm that it really did happen and to encourage the disciples to be courageous with the gospel message no matter what consequences it might bring. And, as we will see next week, that might mean imprisonment or worse. The disciples are Spirit filled; they proclaim the gospel with passion; they live for one another in unity in Christ. They, through the indwelling Spirit, carry on the good news work of their risen and ascended Lord, Jesus Christ. And this work is nothing short of making all things new.

With this in mind, please read Acts 3:1-26 now.

Gospel Message – Perfect Restoration

Michael Payne asks us to imagine, if you will, a scenario in which you must have your bedroom designed by any artist of your choosing. He says, “What might you do to begin? What might assist in your decision making? Would you have someone instantly in mind? Or, perhaps you would hold some type of contest in which the best and brightest would compete for the opportunity to paint, decorate, and design your new room. If this latter design were the case, how would it be judged? Would you choose the most colorful? Would you choose the artist that seemed to best relate to your image or identity? Or, might you look specifically at the various submissions assessing their merit: determining who is the most skilled artist? If this last measure were to be the case, would you ever assume the winning submission could be a drawing of a circle? No more, no less. The only thing that exists on the winning artists submitted page is a hand drawn circle. Would you declare them the winner?”

In his book, *Lives of the Artists*, Giorgio Vasari (1511 – 1574) recounts a story about the artist Giotto (1267 – 1337). Pope Boniface VIII wanted to commission some paintings for St. Peter’s and so he sent a courtier around to find the best painter in Italy. The courtier asked all the artists to give him a sample of their work to send to the Pope. He came to Giotto’s workshop, explained his mission, and asked him for a drawing which would give the Pope some idea of his competence and style. “Sure,” said Giotto; and he laid down a sheet of paper, reached for a brush dipped in red paint, closed his arm to his side to make a sort of compass of it, and in one even sweep scribed a perfect circle. “There you are,” he told the courtier, handing it to him with a smile.

“That’s your drawing?” asked the courtier, who didn’t know whether Giotto was pulling his leg. “Is that all you’re going to send His Holiness?”



“That’s more than enough,” said Giotto. “Send it with your other drawings and see whether it’s understood or not.”

The Pope’s messenger took the drawing and went away trying to hold his temper. Did that little painter think he was a fool?

When he got back to Rome, he showed the Pope the big O and told him how Giotto had scribed it— freehand, without a compass. The pope and his advisors DID understand the achievement of that O and gave Giotto the commission [from The Best Artists website].

Giotto drew a perfect circle. The circle has long stood for perfection, the infinite, no beginning and no end, symmetrical in every way, without deviation or aberration. Something in us is drawn to perfection, to its beauty and elusiveness. We long for perfection because it is part of our design. We were created in the image and likeness of God – without flaw – “very good.” Adam and Eve saw perfectly, heard perfectly, spoke perfectly and interacted perfectly. But that perfection did not last long. They were perfectly free to choose good or evil, obedience or rebellion. And they chose the latter, plunging every human since (save One) into the quagmire of sin, imperfection, defectiveness, ruin. It is this pervasive imperfection, our great potential harbinger that stirs the longing for perfection, for wholeness, for completeness, for being fully alive, for being all that we were created to be and feel and think and say and do.

Our text is loaded with words that reflect this longing and desire for our potential. The word “strong” used in verses 7 and 16 reminds us of our current weakness and stirs the longing for strength. The phrase “perfect health” in verse 16 reminds us of our imperfect health and stirs our longing for physical and mental fitness. The word “refreshing” in verse 20 reminds us that we are weary, tired and fatigued and stirs our longing for energy, inspiration and stamina. The word “restoring” in verse 21 reminds us that we are in disrepair, broken, worn down, cracked, fragmented, wrecked, disordered and stirs our longing for wholeness, newness, completeness. The word “blessed” in verse 25 reminds us of our cursedness, our sin, our rebellion, our deadness, our depravity, our lack and stirs our longing for fruitfulness, happiness, vitality and joyful obedience. And in a negative way, the word “destroyed” in verse 23 reminds us how damaged and unrepairable we are apart for God’s saving grace and stirs our longing for flourishing, growth and creating. This chapter is filled with hints and suggestions and clues and indications that God is at work, doing something so that we are not stuck where we are but are in a state of progression, development, transformation and growth. This passage will serve to confirm what Jesus of Nazareth accomplished in his life, death, resurrection and ascension and what the Holy Spirit is now actualizing within his disciples and church today of making all things new.

This passage consists of two parts. First is the story of the miraculous healing of the forty-year-old man who was crippled from birth and unable to stand or walk. This part serves to show the state or condition we are all in – spiritually crippled and unable to walk. We need a miracle of grace. The second part is Peter preaching another gospel centered message explaining and calling the people to respond by repenting and turning to Jesus of Nazareth. This part serves to show that this grace is given in Jesus Christ where there is forgiveness of sins and “times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.” There is more to this life than this world can offer. There is more to this life than we can currently experience in this world. There is more to this life than this world knows. There is more to this life in Jesus of Nazareth. Yet, even then our best life is not now but when he comes again. While



life in Christ is better, the best is yet to come – perfection. While we are now new creations in Christ, wholly forgiven and united to him, we still are not fully re-created or formed into his image in likeness. We still sin. We still rebel. We grieve these counter-Christ acts, counter-humanity acts, counter-flourishing acts, repent and humbly strive to respond to the good news with the good works of faith. Let's take a closer look at these two scenes and what they say to us today as disciples of Jesus of Nazareth today.

Peter and John are walking to the temple when they encounter a beggar who has been crippled since birth. He has situated himself by one of the temple gates through which those entering the temple mount would pass through. He is a savvy business person. He knows where he needs to be in order to get the most resources from begging – religious folks on their way to temple, to church when they should be the most mindful of their call to be generous and giving to those who are poor and unable to hold a vocation to make ends meet. The man calls out to Peter and John as they approach and they lock eyes. The man is fully expecting to only receive a little bit of money. He has no idea his life is about to change forever. Peter responds that they have no money to give him. However, they have something even more valuable, more important to give – the ability to make him stand and walk; the gift of healing and restoration. He tells the man this and does not even wait for an answer but reaches down to him with his hand and pulls him up to his feet – the feet that didn't allow him to walk, the crippled, broken and non-functioning feet. Immediately, his ankles and feet were “made strong.” They went from weak and incapable of holding weight to having the strength to stand. In fact, Luke is so excited to tell this story he exclaims that the man jumped up, stood and began walking.

Imagine...never to have stood on you own, to never have taken a single step in your life; to never have run or jumped or climbed or skipped or hopped or bounced; to have been carried by others everywhere; to be unable to do what everyone else could. All this over, done, gone, past. The divine power of healing has happened through Spirit-filled people. A miracle indeed. Luke goes on saying that the man followed Peter and John into the temple and he couldn't settle down (nor should he) but was “walking and leaping and praising God.” Mind you, he was not ever allowed to go into the temple courts because of being crippled. This would be a first as well! Imagine this scene in your mind! The healed man was a sight to see. And people did! They heard and saw him and recognized him as the man who had been crippled his entire life. But now he was just like them, able to stand and walk and leap and enter into the temple courts and praise God. The people are blown away (as they should be!). They are amazed and filled with wonder over what had taken place. And Peter notices and makes the most of the opportunity to make much of Jesus of Nazareth.

The man would not let Peter and John out of his sight. In fact, he would not even let them out of his grip. He wanted to be close to the one's who healed him and made him able to walk for the first time. And like this healed man clinging to Peter, the amazed crowd came close to Peter and John, looking at them with wonder and amazement. Peter sees an opportunity and addresses what he sees going on in the group of people gathering around him. He asks them why they are attributing this healing power to them, to two ordinary men who did not have the power nor “piety” to make this happen. No! Your God, the God of the Jews, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob has “glorified his servant, Jesus,” the Holy and Righteous one that you had killed after Pilate had decided to release him; the Author of life, you killed and let a killer go free. But God glorified his servant, Jesus of Nazareth and raised him from the dead of which we are witnesses. This servant of God, this glorified One, this Holy and



Righteous one, this Author of life – he is the one responsible for this man’s new found strength and miraculous healing. He is the one that has given this man “perfect health.” Jesus of Nazareth is the powerful healer, the powerful restorer. The Author of life is the one who restores life.

Peter then, after directing them to Jesus of Nazareth as the one to whom all credit for the healing is to go, calls them to respond by repenting because they had been acting in “ignorance.” But no more. The truth has been made known to them about Jesus of Nazareth. He is the Messiah. He is the Savior. He is Lord. Jesus is the new and better prophet than Moses who said himself that God would send and that you are to listen to whatever he tells you. If you don’t you will be destroyed. Jesus of Nazareth is the one that not only Moses referred to but also Samuel and the rest of the prophets had been referring to. Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfilment of Israel’s story, the Jews story. Listen. Abraham, the father of faith with whom God made a covenant that his sons would be the ones through whom “all the families of the earth will be blessed.” That’s you (the Jewish men surrounding Peter, John and the healed man). That’s me. That’s us! Now, repent. Turn to Jesus of Nazareth. Turn from your ignorance. God sent his Son, the one he raised from the dead, to us, to the Jews first in order to bless us first by turning you from your wickedness. If you do, your sins will be forgiven (and you’ll receive the Holy Spirit). This seems to be what the rather cryptic phrase, “that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, appointed for you, Jesus”. We are not told how people in the temple courts responded although next week we will see how the Jewish leaders in the temple responded.

People of Community CRC, we are that crippled man. We are the ones who need healing. We are the ones who need grace. We are the ones who need restoration. We are the ones who need strength. We are the ones who need forgiveness of sins. We are all sinners in need of God’s forgiveness. We all disobey and rebel. We all give in to our selfish ways, selfish desires and selfish wants. We all strive to find wholeness, perfection, salvation on our own terms, as either legalistic self-righteous elder brothers or as licentious, cheap-grace younger brothers, neither of which think they need Jesus. We all are on or have been on the pendulum of lostness and need to be miraculously pulled off and out by Jesus of Nazareth, by grace, by mercy, by love.

And we do and have by grace and through faith in this Jesus of Nazareth, the Holy and Righteous one, the Author of life, the resurrected One. Maybe for the first time, recognizing our sinfulness and lack of following Jesus and Lord and Savior. In this first time we are converted by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit and given the gift of faith through which we believe and trust in him as our Way, Truth and Life. We turn from our wickedness to the goodness of God in Christ Jesus and through the Holy Spirit. The crippled man was restored to “perfect health.” He was made “strong.” Peter promises that in repentance there will be “refreshing” and that when Jesus returns again there will be complete restoring. We are today, a part of God’s grand plan of redemption, of making all things new where the fitting response is leaping and praising of God for what he has done for us.

The image of a lame man leaping is reminiscent of a passage in the Old Testament. Isaiah 35:6 says, “Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.”



This text is speaking of a time when salvation will come. And it has in Jesus of Nazareth. Salvation has come. And it will come again in all its fullness. Right now, we only get a glimpse for we still see through a glass darkly and our ears are not fully open and we still hobble around and our tongues still spews forth evil. Yes, we are justified in Christ. We are also being sanctified in him too – of becoming more like him through the person and power of the Holy Spirit as we listen, repent and respond with the obedience of faith.

One day we will have “perfect health,’ perfect restoration. One day we will be perfect circles! This healing of the lame man is a sign of that. The proclamation of the gospel is a verbal witness of it. This is the hope that we have in Christ; that all things will be put to right when all defeated evil will be removed and undone; where nothing but health and flourishing and vitality and prospering will be present. We long for that day of complete restoration. Maranatha! Come quickly Lord Jesus!

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Apostles Creed)

We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven

Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, “this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, “this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

Remember and believe that the body & blood of Jesus was given & shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Song – Ancient of Days -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJUtaW21qAM>

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall

There is still one King reigning over all

So I will not fear for this truth remains

That my God is, the Ancient of Days

None above Him, none before Him

All of time in His hands

For His throne it shall remain and ever stand

All the power, all the glory

I will trust in His name

For my God is, the Ancient of Days

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul



*He is here with me, I am not alone
O His love is sure, and He knows my name
For my God is, the Ancient of Days
None above Him, none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power, all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is, the Ancient of Days
Though I may not see what the future brings
I will watch and wait for the Savior King
Then my joy complete, standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days
None above Him, none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power, all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is, the Ancient of Days
For my God is, the Ancient of Days*

Sending as Disciples of Jesus

We are people with hope – hope for a future that abundantly rises above our current experiences – a future in which we will reach our telos – our perfection – our potential – all because of God’s amazing love and grace and mercy towards. He sends his Son to do what we could not do and he sends his Spirit to enable and empower and equip us be what we could not be – his witnesses today – witnesses of a great hope in Jesus of Nazareth – the Ancient of Days.

We are sent out by God into the world as his witnesses. As we go, may we know with our minds and believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths the gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom. And may we live in a manner worthy of that Good News at work, at home, at school and in our neighborhood to the glory of God and through the person and power of the Holy Spirit.