

Call to Worship

Psalm 66 Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you; they sing praises to your name.”

Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind.

Prayer

Lord God, I do indeed bring you praise as I sing and pray in this time of worship. I sing the glory of your name, and I marvel at your awesome deeds. I praise and glorify you for what you have done for mankind, for your grace and love to me through Jesus. Amen

Song: AHB 84 “Glory be to God the Father” *by Horatius Bonar*

1. Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit, great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory while eternal ages run.
2. Glory be to him who loved us, washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to him who bought us, made us kings with him to reign;
Glory, glory to the Lamb that once was slain.
3. Glory to the King of angels, glory to the church’s King.
Glory to the King of nations, heaven and earth, your praises bring;
Glory, glory, to the King of Glory bring.
4. ‘Glory, blessing, praise eternal’ thus the choir of angels sings;
‘Honour, riches, power, dominion!’, thus its praise creation brings;
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!

© public domain

Prayer of Intercession

Lord, I feel a deep grief and am assailed by the brutality that arises from the sin in this world. I pray against the brutality in families that impacts mainly women and children, the brutality that sets person against person in our society, and the brutality of the system that crushes the body, soul and spirit of the underprivileged.

And I pray against the brutality against Christians in so many countries around the world. I pray for those hundreds of girls kidnapped by his Islamic terrorists in Nigeria. I pray against the brutality of church bombings in Syria. I pray against the brutality of the displacement of tens of thousands in Sudan.

Lord, I thank you that Barnabas Aid speaks and acts into all these situations, bringing relief and hope to countless places and situations around the globe where Christians are brutalised and persecuted. Bless their aid programmes, their education programmes, their employment training programmes, their church leadership training

“Song Jai”

programmes. Lord, help me to express my love for my brothers and sisters in Jesus by supporting these efforts.

I pray in the name of Jesus who also knew suffering for my salvation. Amen

Song: Song for the Nations *by Chris Christensen*

1. May we be a shining light to the nations, a shining light to the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world sees the glory of Your name may Your pure light shine through us.
2. May we bring a word of hope to the nations, a word of life to the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world knows their salvation through Your name may Your mercy flow through us.
3. May we be a healing balm to the nations, a healing balm to the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world knows the power of Your name may Your healing flow through us.
4. May we sing a song of joy to the nations, a song of praise to the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world rings with the praises of Your name may Your song be sung through us.
5. May Your Kingdom come to the nations, Your will be done in the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world knows that Jesus Christ is Lord may Your Kingdom come in us,
May Your Kingdom come in us, may Your Kingdom come on earth.

© 1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Used by permission CCL1509237

Bible Reading:

- **Philippians 2:18b- 26**

..... I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in my body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Message: “Song Jai”

In Thailand they have a term, it's a Thai idiom really, called “song jai”, which translates into “two hearts”. It refers to the situation where we live life for a while in a new place, find friends, build relationships, and feel at home there. Our heart is in that place. But even though our heart is in that place, we still miss where we came from, our other home, and our heart is there as well. So, it is though we have two hearts - “song jai”.

In my church we have many international people for whom that is true. They love it at our, and now their church. They feel like it is their home and they belong there. But at the

“Song Jai”

same time, they still have their heart in their other home where there is family, and sometimes children. “Song jai”.

That's true for my wife and me, and Thailand. Over 20 years we have developed very close friends at an orphanage there. We have there a young woman who was only seven when we began sponsoring her and she calls us “Mum and Dad”. She is now married and we now have two “grandchildren” there. We still support her and her family so you can imagine how much our hearts are there. When we go to church here, we think of all our friends preparing for worship at the orphanage. We know who leads the worship and who is preaching, and our hearts are there. Each year we visit and as we share in worship with them, loving every minute, our hearts are also back here in Adelaide where our dear friends are meeting for worship, and we miss them. “Song jai”.

I guess many who are reading or listening to this will have experienced “song jai”, maybe if you have a family that is scattered widely across our state, interstate or perhaps even overseas and your heart is with them as well as at home. Perhaps you've been on a holiday and visited a local church where you might have experienced the warmest of welcomes, received some excellent teaching, engaged in meaningful worship and loved every minute, but still your heart yearns for your home church.

Over Paul's 3 missionary journeys he established churches in many cities and regions and obviously had deep feelings of “song jai”, (or more correctly “sam jai, si jai, ha jai” and so on - just showing off my ability to count in Thai!!). His letters indicated deep longing to be with those people when he is away. Read these:

- Romans 11: 11-12 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong, that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.
- Galatians 4: 19 – 20 My dear children for whom I am again in the pangs of childbirth until Christ is formed in you; how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.
- Philippians 1: 18 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Thessalonians 2: 17 But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.

And even to a single person.

- 2 Timothy 1: 4 I thank God whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy.

You can hear Paul's love, passion and care for these scattered churches springing from these passages. And he has a passion to see them acting like the Body of Christ that they were meant to be. To the Corinthians he wrote urging them to use the gifts of the Spirit to benefit others, and to tell them the Body of Christ works like any other body. The hand can't do everything, or even more than what it is made for. Nor can the eye or the ear.

“Song Jai”

How is my church going when it comes to working together as a body?

He draws a picture of how it all works, how all have some gift. How the weakest are to be honoured even more than the strongest, and how all should have equal concern for one another. This challenges me to look afresh at each person in my church. Is there someone who has left me feeling annoyed and has diminished my longing to be at church with them. Or has some of my annoying habits reduced someone else’s longing to be at church, enjoying the oneness of the body of Christ. If that’s happening for you, remember the time that Jesus prayed for you, for each of us in fact, and you can hear in his words the longing in his heart. John 17:20-21 **I pray also for those who will believe in me through their** (that is, the 11 disciples) **message that all of them may be one Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** How is my church going when it comes to being as one?

Some, if not most of these churches were small as many of ours are. Small or not, Paul longed to see his beloved churches grow into maturity and unity, and to show that when they met together. He had a lot to say about the Corinthian church sorting out their poor practices at the Lord’s Table. He exhorted all his churches to support their leaders such as Priscilla and Aquilla, Timothy, Archippus, Apollos and others. He expected everyone to contribute and participate when they met for worship – teach and admonish each other with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit he told the Colossians. Does my church encourage participation and the ministry of all the believers?

There is also another sense in which Paul deeply experienced “song jai”. We have just read of his desire to be in the churches, to enjoy their company, to teach, to correct, to bring unity and to grow the understanding and glory of being part of the Body of Christ. But he also reminds the Philippians (above) that our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly bodies so they will be like his glorious body. He admits to being torn (“song jai”). On the one hand he says that “to live is Christ”, and on the other hand “to die is gain”. He desires to leave and be with Jesus, but he also desires to go on living in the body because he will enjoy the fruitfulness of that.

Most of those reading or listening to this are no doubt in the second half of their lives on God’s earth. A few weeks ago, Neil McIntosh’s HNSA service dealt with facing the inevitable in our lives, just as Paul did, and I would recommend reading it again.

I think I have shared before about a friend of mine who is dying of cancer. He often says that each extra day he is given on earth means that God has something else for him to do. And if he dies, he gets to be with Jesus. He reckons that is a “win-win”. What a great attitude to life in service to Jesus! “Song jai”!

Song: AHB 367 “All Praise to our Redeeming Lord” *by Charles Wesley*

1. All praise to our redeeming Lord, who joins us by his grace,
And bids us, each to each restored, together seek his face.
2. He bids us build each other up; and, gathered into one,
To our high calling’s glorious hope we hand in hand go on.

“Song Jai”

3. The gift which he on one bestows, we all delight to prove;
The grace through every vessel flows in purest streams of love.
4. Even now we think and speak the same, and cordially agree;
Concentred all, through Jesus’ name, in perfect harmony.
5. We all partake the joy of one, the common peace we feel,
A peace too sensual minds unknown, a joy unspeakable.
6. And if at fellowship below in Jesus be so sweet,
What heights of rapture shall we know when round his throne we meet.

© public domain

Benediction

Ephesians 6:23-24 Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

This service was prepared by Ron Tiller, HopeNet SA