

Worship Service

BY DAVID M. BRIDGES

Prelude

Solo:

“Ain’t Got Time to Die”

Lord, I keep so busy praisin’ my Jesus
 Keep so busy praisin’ my Jesus
 Keep so busy praisin’ my Jesus
 Ain’t got time to die.
 ‘Cause when I’m healin’ de sick (I’m praisin’ my Jesus)
 When I’m healin’ de sick (I’m praisin’ my Jesus)
 When I’m healin’ de sick (I’m praisin’ my Jesus)
 Ain’t got time to die.
 ‘Cause it takes all o’ ma time (to praise my Jesus)
 All o’ ma time (to praise my Lord)
 If I don’t praise him de rocks gonter cry out
 Glory an’ honor, glory an’ honor
 Ain’t got time to die.

African-American Spiritual

*The Summons to Worship:*¹

Leader:

Brethren, we have met to worship, and adore the Lord our God; will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the word?

Men:

All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down,

Leader & Men:

Brethren, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Leader:

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses’ sister aided him; will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?

Women:

Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that he will be found,

Leader & Women:

Sisters pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Leader:

See poor sinners all around you slumbering on the brink of woe:

Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?

All:

See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;

we will pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Hymn:

“God is Working His Purpose Out”

Solo:

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks I Stand”

(first stanza only, slowly)

The Old Testament Reading: Psalm 85 and Psalm 86:1-5

*Prayer of Confession:*²

Leader:

Come, you sinners poor and needy, weak and wounded,
sick and sore:

People:

Jesus ready stands to save us, full of pity, love and power.

Leader:

Come, you thirsty, come and welcome, God’s free bounty glorify;

People:

True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings us nigh.

Leader:

Come you weary, heavy-laden, lost and ruined by the fall;

People:

If we tarry, ‘til we better, we will never come at all.

Leader:

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;

People:

All the fitness God requires is to feel our own great need.

Anthem:

“Broad is the Road”³

Broad is the road that leads to death,
And thousands walk together there;
But wisdom shows a narrower path,
With here and there a traveller.

“Deny thyself, and take thy cross,”
Is the Redeemer’s great command;
Nature must count her gold but dross,
If she would gain this heav’nly land.

The fearful soul that tires and faints,
And walks the ways of God no more,
Is but esteemed almost a saint,
And makes his own destruction sure.

Lord, let not all my hopes be vain
Create my heart entirely new;
Which hypocrites could ne’er attain,
Which false apostates never knew.

Isaac Watts, arr. by Robert Shaw and Alice Parker

Hymn:

“We’ll Understand It Better, By and By”

We are tossed and driven on the restless sea of time;
Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain: By and by, when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We’ll tell the story how we’ve overcome,
For we’ll understand it better by and by.

We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;
We are trusting in the Lord, and according to God’s Word,
We will understand it better by and by. *Refrain*

Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand
All the ways that God could lead us to that blessed promised land;
But He guides us with His eye, and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by. *Refrain*

Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed for a thoughtless word or deed;
And we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by. *Refrain*

Charles Albert Tindley

*The Psalter Reading:*⁴ Psalm 46

Hymn:

“Forever Where Our Hope is Born”

Terry W. York (text and tune pp. 60-61 this volume)

Prayers of the Congregation:

After a joy or concern, the congregation may respond:

Leader: Lord, for this joy, or: Lord, for this concern,
People: We give you thanks. Hear our prayers.

Pastoral Prayer

The Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Anthem:

“Poor Man Laz’rus”⁵

African-American Spiritual, arr. Jester Hairston

Sermon

Solo:

“Heaven Shall Not Wait”⁶

John L. Bell (text and tune pp. 62-63 this volume)

Hymn:

“Come We That Love the Lord”

Offering

Doxology

*Litany of Thanksgiving:*⁷

Leader:

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, sing his mercy and his grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed, he'll prepare for us a place.

People:

When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!

Leader:

While we walk the pilgrim pathway, clouds will overspread the sky;
But when traveling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh.

People:

When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!

Leader:

Let us then be true and faithful, trusting, serving every day,
Just one glimpse of God's great glory will the toils of life repay.

People:

When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!

*Closing Prayer:*⁸

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

Hymn:

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul—
how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die,
 the Lord my Savior liveth.
 What though the darkness gather round,
 songs in the night He giveth.
 No storm can shake my inmost calm
 while to that refuge clinging.
 Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
 how can I keep from singing?

I lift mine eyes; the cloud grows thin;
 I see the blue above it;
 and day by day this pathway smooths
 since first I learned to love it.
 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
 a fountain ever springing.
 All things are mine since I am His—
 how can I keep from singing?

Anonymous 19th C. American
Tune: ENDLESS SONG

*Benediction.*⁹

For neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
 nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything
 else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in
 Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

NOTES

¹ Adapted from “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship” by George Atkins, 1819.

² Adapted from “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” by Joseph Hart, 1759.

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⁴ This psalm may be read responsively by whole verse, or the congregation may sing or speak a response after verses 3, 7, and 11. (The word “Selah,” which may mean “amen” or “so be it,” appears after these verses and may be used as a spoken response.)

⁵ © Bourne Music Publishers. Available at www.bournemusic.com (catalog #103936).

⁶ © GIA Publications, Inc. Available by calling 1-800-442-1358 or at www.giamusic.com (catalog G-3646).

⁷ Adapted from “When We All Get to Heaven” by Eliza E. Hewitt, 1898.

⁸ Adapted from John 11:25-26.

⁹ Adapted from Romans 8:38-39.

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