

Good morning.

Good morning.

I'm going to be reading from Psalm 96.

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Sing to the Lord all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name.

Proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

He is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him.

Strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.

Bring an offering and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

Tremble before him

all the earth.

Say among the nations, the Lord reigns.

The world is firmly established.

It cannot be moved.

He will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice.

Let the earth be glad.

Let the sea resound and all that is in it.

Let the fields be jubilant and everything in them.

Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Good morning, church, so great to be with you.

My name is Jason Embedin, and this is my wife, Rose, in the front.

This is a picture of our family.

We are residents of Amherst, New York, which is outside of Buffalo, and we now serve at the University of Buffalo.

Our family has been missionaries with CRU for 27 years.

We've been missionaries with them, CRU, Campus Crusade for Christ.

Same organization.

And like Nate said, we've known him and Grace Bible Church in New Fane, New York for a long time.

And for 11 years, we served in China from 2004 to 2015.

So that means that my wife and I can speak Chinese.

And so if we don't want our kids to totally know what's going on, we'll start speaking in Chinese.

But they do know the word for ice cream in Chinese and some other words.

But it's a nice skill to have.

It's actually a wonderful opportunity for us to be at the University of Buffalo.

If you don't know, there's about 32,000 students at the University of Buffalo.

Currently, they rank number 20 in the United States for the most international students on campus.

And right now, there's probably around 4,000 students from all around the world, including China.

So it was always fun to meet students from China.

We did that this week.

We were tabling, meeting students, and starting to speak with them in Chinese.

And they're absolutely shocked that this white guy can speak Chinese with them.

That's a picture of our family.

We have four children.

Our oldest two, Maggie and Evie, are actually students at the University of Buffalo.

Maggie's a junior, and Evie will be a freshman.

Jack is in high school now.

He's 15, and Charlotte here up with us today is 10.

So I keep joking.

Rose and I keep getting shorter.

We're getting shorter.

Our kid's getting taller.

But so wonderful to be with you today.

Maybe I'll go to the next slide, see if the clicker works.

If not, they can move it in the back for me.

The next slide will show some pictures of some students that we work with.

I wanted to share a story of a student quickly.

This is an Easter outreach that we did.

We will often use holidays to share the gospel.

We'll do a potluck and have students share food from around the world.

And we were able to share the gospel to about 40 students from all around the world, many of whom come from nations that have

that are in the 1040 window, which are some of the most unreached places in the world.

India, China, Japan, Iran, Middle Eastern countries.

And we were able to use this holiday of Easter to share the gospel with them in really fun and creative ways.

It was a really special time.

You can go to the next slide.

The next slide, if you see to my left, or my right, your left, there's a student there, and his name is Luke.

And a year ago, I got a message on my phone in July, an email, and it's a student from Malaysia.

He says, hi, my name is Luke.

I'm coming to Buffalo, University of Buffalo.

I found you on the internet, and I was wondering if you could pick me up at the airport when I arrive in August.

And I was like, man, is this for real?

Is this a scam?

Well, it turned out it wasn't a scam.

I was able to meet Luke at the airport, get him settled into his dorm, help him get a bank account, help him figure out how to get a phone number.

And he became involved with our ministry.

He was not a Christian.

But he was interested in connecting with our group and meeting friends and Christian friends.

And last December, he went with us to Denver, Colorado to a big student conference.

This is where the picture was taken, where there's about 600 international students from across the country.

And he was able to hear the gospel repeatedly over the course of five days.

And right at the end of the conference, he went into a prayer room and he prayed to place his trust in Jesus Christ as the Savior.

And he has really grown.

He's gotten involved with a church that our ministry is connected to.

He's coming to Bible studies.

He's bringing his friends, non-Christian friends from all around the world to our group.

And he'll be getting baptized this semester.

He's just doing so well.

So it's just amazing to see how very ordinary ministry that happens is simply answering an email, picking up a student at the airport, sharing meals and opening God's word, what that can turn into.

And it's been amazing to see God working in his life

as he brings the nations to us here in the western New York area, in the Buffalo area.

So, again, thank you so much for welcoming us here today.

It's a joy to be with you today.

And if you have your Bibles, you can open them to Psalm 96.

I think in the Pew Bible, it's page 499, Psalm 96.

And we'll be going through this.

There's a sermon outline in your bulletin that you can go through.

But before we get into the sermon, I have a question for you.

January 27th, 1991.

Do you know where you were?

Some of you are like, I wasn't born yet.

Or I was really, really little.

I'm getting older.

I knew where I was.

I was about 14 years old.

January 27th.

1991.

Do you know where you were?

Well, that was the night of Super Bowl XXV.

The Buffalo Bills were playing against the New York Giants.

I don't know if we're in Buffalo Bills territory here or not.

It could be Cleveland Brown territory for all I know, but hopefully not.

But this was a very, very exciting night.

And I still remember huddling up in my living room, holding hands as Scott Norwood lined up to make the kick.

Super Bowl XXV, wide right.

Bills lose, Giants win, and our hearts were crushed.

But before the game even began, history was made.

Do you know who sang the national anthem?

Yeah, you can go to the next slide.

Whitney Houston.

They say that this is the best rendition of the national anthem ever sung in the 250 years of American history.

And if you go back to it, you can actually, if you've never heard it, you can go on YouTube, you can look it up, and you can listen.

It's actually quite stunning.

She slows it down, she gives it a jazzy feel, and she can totally hit the high notes

And actually, they took the song, the rendition of our national anthem, after this game, and then after 9-11 in 2001, and they released it as a single, and it sold over a million copies that had never happened before in the history of our country.

But it was just a stunning display, a stunning rendition of our national anthem.

Well, as Christians,

I think we can be quick to love our national anthem.

And I think that's a good thing.

I think as Christians, we make some of the best citizens of our country.

We should be patriotic.

We should be not only citizens of our country, but some of the best citizens.

And I think that is, I found that to be true.

And as Christians, we should love the American anthem, our national anthem.

However, I think we can fail to realize that as Christians, we have a much greater anthem to sing than the Star-Spangled Banner.

I think we can fail to realize that we gather together with the greater church around the world and come together under the banner of the gospel and proclaim a new anthem to the whole earth.

And so today as we come to Psalm 96, one commentator said this, that Psalm 96 is our international anthem as believers in Christ, our international anthem.

Just a little background on Psalm 96.

It's written by David.

It's also seen in 1 Chronicles 16, earlier in the Bible, when David is becoming king and he's bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem.

So here in Psalm 96, we see a later rendition of it.

It's more filled out.

But really, this psalm is showing the greatness of God and how Israel was to be a major vehicle for spreading the glory of God and throughout the whole earth.

Well, now as Christians, I think,

We can also take this as our banner, our international anthem, in light of the great commission, Jesus coming, dying on the cross, rising again, giving us the great commission that we too, God can use us to help spread his glory throughout the whole earth.

And so as we come to this passage, I think there's some major themes in this passage.

And some of these major themes are this.

It's the glory of God that's repeated over and over again.

Also, it's worship.

What does it say in verse one?

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song.

Sing to the Lord all the earth.

And so this idea of singing, singing, worship worship

for 2,000 years, Christians have been singing.

It's what makes us very unique.

Our faith in Christ is very unique.

And so it also talks about the nations, the idea of the nations are repeated over and over again.

God's heart for the whole world.

God's glory was not just to be kept by Israel.

but was to be celebrated and worshiped by Israel and then through Israel to spread throughout the whole world.

And now the same is true for us.

And I think the big idea, the main idea, the sermon in one sentence, if you just want this thing in one sentence, I guess we can go home after this.

This is it.

Friends, the big idea is this.

God's glory is to be cherished by his people and declared among the nations.

God's glory is to be cherished by His people and declared among the nations.

And my prayer for you today, my prayer for us today, is that we would have a passion for God's glory and a passion to help proclaim it among all the nations.

So, as we come to this psalm,

We will learn three truths that will really help us to cherish God's glory and help declare it among the nations.

And the first truth is found in verse 5.

Go to the next slide.

The first truth is this, friends.

Praise the glorious works of God among the nations.

Because God's glory is to be cherished by his people and declared among the nations, we must be a people who praise the glorious works of God among the nations.

You can go to the next slide, verses one through five.

What does it say?

Sing to the Lord, a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth, sing to the Lord, bless his name.

We see that repetition.

Tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works.

Among all the peoples, his works.

David's talking about his works.

And when he's talking about his works, he's kind of highlighting two main things when it talks about the works of God.

The first one are his work in salvation.

Verse two, tell of his salvation from day to day.

Isn't it interesting here in verse two, it says his salvation from day to day.

I suppose David could have said, tell of my salvation from

No doubt, David had experienced God's physical rescue and salvation of his life many times, if you read about the life of David.

And this is definitely pointing forward to the salvation that we experience through faith in Jesus Christ.

But it's interesting that David says it's his salvation that

Yes, it is our salvation, but so clearly David says here that it's his salvation.

It's God who saves.

Sometimes I think when we do evangelism, we can do evangelism in such a way that it becomes very much man-centered.

If you believe, then you can get this from God.

If you believe, then you can have eternal life with God, which are true.

No doubt that there are benefits of salvation, but may we be a people when we share the gospel with others that it focuses on God.

God is the one who saves.

God is mighty to save.

And then what does it say there in verse 2?

From day to day.

Day to day.

Not just one day a week, but every day we are to tell of his salvation from day to day.

When we were in China, we did a lot of evangelism.

We worked with underground house churches to help encourage them and mobilize them.

And we would go into the dorms and share the gospel with students.

And I still remember there was a Christian student in our ministry named CC, was his nickname.

And CC was sharing the gospel with the people, other students in his dorm.

It was amazing.

And CC met one of the students in his dorm named Michael.

And Michael was able to hear the gospel and he put his faith in Christ and started to grow in his faith.

But over time, we noticed that Michael wasn't coming out to our weekly meetings.

Michael wasn't coming to Bible study.

He wasn't coming to church.

And we were like, oh, what happened?

And we learned from Michael that his grandmother died.

And then his father and his uncle got caught doing some
illegal business things and went to jail, prison.

And because of that, Michael said, I'm not going to continue following Jesus.

You see, for Michael, especially in the Chinese worldview, it's like, I'll believe in God to get this.

I want to believe to get a smooth life, a good life.

You know, even Chinese, even in the Buddhist culture, will go to the temple and they'll burn incense before a major test.

Or if they need more money, they'll go to the temple and burn incense and pray for more money.

And so you could almost sense that Michael was coming to the gospel and he understood it as a very, if I believe I can get this.

But he wasn't understanding that the greatest thing about the gospel

is not that we don't have troubles, but we get God himself.

We get a relationship with God, and in the midst of our troubles, God is with us.

Even in the midst of our troubles.

You can go to the next slide.

John Piper famously said this, the gospel is not a way to get people to heaven.

It's a way to get people to God.

It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God.

If we don't want God above all things,

We have not been converted by the gospel.

Friends, tell of his salvation from day to day.

The greatest thing about the gospel is that we get God himself.

And when the hard times do come, he is with us.

As the passage continues here, we see not only does David talk about God's work in salvation, but we also see his work in creation.

What does it say in verse 4?

You can read with me in verse 4.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

He is to be feared above all gods.

Verse 5.

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

So David here is talking about God's work in creation.

And what's really interesting in verse 5, how do I say this?

David gets into some spicy language.

Some ancient Hebrew, how do I say, trash talk.

So how does verse 5, in the original languages, it says, all the gods of the people are worthless.

Basically saying is your mighty gods are mighty worthless.

Worthless.

And then he says, but the Lord made the heavens.

He's pointing to the fact when we talk about the works of God.

Yes, his work in salvation, but also his work in creation.

We talk about this a lot with students at the University of Buffalo.

And I love to have them look at the stars and the vastness of the universe and God's creation there.

But I also love to have them think about the human cell.

Did you know that if you took all the DNA out of your body and stretched it from end to end, it could go to the sun and back around 400 times?

And not only that, that DNA is information.

It's like computer code.

So if someone starts to talk to me about evolution, God doesn't, I guess, I'm like, where does that information come from?

By chance?

Oh, no.

The people that discovered DNA, they said, number one, it's either alien space dust, or number two, the fingerprints of God.

Well, friends, I think the best way of understanding it is it's the fingerprints of God.

David says, but the Lord made the heavens.

He's the creator.

He's the creator.

So, friends, really, the goal of missions really is to help people to turn from their idols and worship the Creator.

And one of the interesting things about the University of Buffalo is we get a lot of students coming from India, especially in the last decade or so.

And oftentimes, when you meet students from India, they bring two huge suitcases on the airplane with them.

And one suitcase is full

of clothes, and the other one is full of food, spices.

The one thing that they fear about the United States is that our food is so bland.

The worst thing is you eat food that's not spicy, so they bring like a suitcase full of spices.

But also in those suitcases are idols.

And I've been into the apartments where these students live, and they set up their idols to worship those idols, like literally.

And so, especially here in the West, we're like, oh, those people in India, they're idol worshipers.

Well, maybe we should be careful how much we criticize those Indian students.

Because here in the West, we might not have shining idols that we put up on our windowsills, but we also have our idols.

The Bills.

Go to a Sunday game.

You see 60,000 worshipers, right?

Or it could be financial success.

It could be our jobs.

It could be our children and their success.

It becomes, of course, oftentimes an idol is a good thing that becomes too much of a thing.

And so we have our idols here as well.

You can go to the next slide.

Tim Keller said this, and idols, whatever you look at and say in your heart of hearts, if I have that, then my life will have its meaning.

Then I'll know I have value.

Then I'll feel significant and secure.

There are many ways to describe that kind of relationship to something, but perhaps the best one is worship.

So even here in the West, we have our idols.

And so the goal of missions is to turn people from worshipping those idols to have them come and worship and know the creator of the universe.

And so as we come to this section, there's an application question.

And the application, you go to the next slide, is this.

When you share the gospel with others, does it focus on what God has done?

So David is talking about the works of God, what he's done.

Is it God-centered or man-centered?

I suppose we need to keep it in balance.

But God is a God who is mighty to save.

And God is the creator of the universe.

Well, as the passage continues, we learn a second truth that will help us to cherish God's glory and declare it among the nations.

And the second truth is this.

Friends, praise the glorious name of God among the nations.

Next slide.

Praise the glorious name of God among the nations.

Because God's glory is to be cherished by his people and declared among the nations, we must be a people who praise God for who he is.

When we say the name of God, it's really the sum total of who he is.

What does it say in verse two?

You can go to the next slide.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Verse six, splendor and majesty are before him, strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord the glory and strength.

Verse eight, ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.

Again, David's talking about the name of God.

It's the sum total of who he is.

But he gives a really interesting description of God in verse six.

I'll read it again, verse six.

Splendor and majesty are before him.

Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Do you know what a Renaissance man is, a Renaissance woman?

You know, it's a phrase that we have in English.

It's really someone who's really incredibly well-rounded.

And do you know someone who's a Renaissance man?

Maybe you say, I'm a Renaissance.

Maybe I'm a Renaissance man.

I don't know if that's true or not.

But I have a friend who's a Renaissance man.

His name is Jeff.

He's about the same age as I am.

He went and got his PhD at the University of Buffalo in philosophy.

So you can talk to him hours about philosophy, specifically Kierkegaard.

He loves Kierkegaard.

Jeff is good-looking.

Jeff plays guitar.

Jeff is a classical piano player.

He's a worship pastor as well as an academic dean at St.

Peter's College in New Jersey.

He can also play volleyball.

And he can sing.

And he's funny.

A lot of times those smart guys aren't funny, but he's actually funny.

His wife is beautiful.

The family dog is cute.

I mean, do you get my drift?

He's just winning.

He's number one in everything, you know what I mean?

So what's my point?

What's my point?

Verse 6 says,

Notice the words used to describe God.

Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

You know, it's interesting, as I was studying this, thinking about this, oftentimes the things that are strong are not beautiful.

And oftentimes the things that are beautiful are not strong.

But when David's describing God, he's using this poetic language to describe how great he is.

He's not only strong, but he's beautiful.

I suppose you could look at those football players on a Sunday.

Those big guys.

They're strong, but they are not pretty, right?

They're not pretty.

But God is, he's strong and he's pretty.

He's strong and he's beautiful.

You see, God is the ultimate Renaissance man.

What does it say in Matthew chapter 6?

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Jesus teaches the prayer about praising God for his name, the greatness of his name, and praising him.

So our prayers should be filled with praise.

And as we go, we should be going out praising God for who he is.

And so the application question is this.

Next slide.

When you share the gospel with others, do you accurately convey who God is?

Now this can be intimidating, especially if you're new and you're learning.

You're like, oh, I can't tell anybody about God.

I don't know.

I would say don't worry.

Don't worry about that.

But the goal is that's why we meet here on Sundays.

That's why we have Bible studies.

That's why we take our kids to camp to teach them about who God is, his name.

He's not only strong, but he's beautiful.

Not only loving, but holy and just.

Amen.

So that when we go and share the gospel with others, when we tell others about Christ, we can accurately convey who he is.

You see, the missionary movement is ultimately a movement of sharing the scriptures.

If we want to proclaim the glorious name of God, we do so by proclaiming the word of God.

And so that's why we, children of the Reformation, we love our Bibles.

We read our Bibles.

We memorize our Bibles.

We come here and we listen to a weird guy like me talk about the Bible for 50 minutes, right?

Because it's God's word.

And through God's word, we get to know who he is.

And we can have a relationship with him.

And then we can go share that with others.

Friends,

declare the glorious works of God among the nations, to declare the glorious name of God among the nations.

And as the passage continues, we learn a third truth.

And the third truth that we learn is this, for our friends proclaim the glory of the cross among the nations.

It's interesting, you can go to the next slide, as we look at the end of this psalm,

Starting in verse 10.

Sorry that the print is so small.

Verse 10.

It says, say among the nations, the Lord reigns.

Yes, the world is established and shall never be moved.

He will judge the peoples with equity.

So David starts to move this psalm into the language of judgment.

Verse 13.

Before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.

He'll judge the world in righteousness and his people with faithfulness.

Yes, God, he's speaking of the holiness of God and how he will come to judge the world and the nations.

And as Christians, we know that this is pointing forward to Jesus, his death on the cross for our sins.

Yes, God is judged, but through the cross of Christ, God has provided a way for the nations to escape judgment.

So what is the relationship between the glory of God and the nations and the cross?

Well, if you can, turn with me in your Bibles to John chapter 12.

John chapter 12.

It's also on the screen.

John chapter 12, starting in verse 23.

And the question we can ask is this, does the cross glorify the name of God?

In some ways, the cross, it's full of agony, shame, and mocking of Jesus.

But I would say the cross does glorify the name of God.

Let's read in verse 23.

Chapter 12, John 12, verse 23.

And Jesus answered them, the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Again, this language of glory.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone.

But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Verse 27.

Now is my soul troubled, and what shall I say?

Father, save me from this hour?

But for this purpose I have come for this hour.

Here we go, more of this glory language.

Father, glorify your name.

And the voice came from heaven and said, I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.

The crowd that stood there heard it and said, it had thundered.

Another said, an angel had spoken to him.

Verse 30, Jesus answered, this voice has come for your sake, not mine.

Now is the judgment of the world.

Now will the rule of this world be cast out.

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.

Verse 33, he said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.

Friends, at the cross, we learn about the glory of God.

The cross glorifies the name of God.

Because at Calvary, at the cross, we see who God truly is.

We see a God who is just, but we also see a God who is loving.

A God that loved the world so much that he gave his only son.

The God that we declare among the nations is the Father who gave his Son.

He's the Son of God who gave his life.

And he's the Spirit of God who helps us to proclaim the wonders of the cross among the nations.

So yes, friends, may we be a people who proclaim the glory of the cross.

Among the nations.

An application question.

Next slide.

How can you use your life to help share the gospel with others?

How can you use your life to help share the gospel with others?

There's a great verse in Romans 10.

Next slide.

Romans 10, 14 and 15.

It says this.

How then will they call on him whom they have not believed?

And how are they to believe in him whom they have never heard?

And how are they to hear about someone preaching?

And how are they to preach unless they're sent?

As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.

So friends, look at your feet.

What do they look like?

What are you wearing today?

Friends, as we go and share the gospel with others, God calls our feet beautiful feet.

But the question is, how can you use your life to share the gospel with others?

How can you use your life to help take the gospel to the nations?

And I want to give you five practical ways that you can be involved with taking the gospel and the message of the cross to the nations.

The first one is by praying.

Everyone can be praying.

Right here from this community, you can be praying for the gospel to advance in China.

Right here, you can be praying for the gospel to advance among unreached people groups studying at the University of Buffalo.

Pray.

The second one is by giving.

Being generous.

Giving to your church so that your church can give to missions.

Giving to other missionaries that might have financial need to help them go to the nations.

The third way is go.

You can go.

You can go on a mission trip.

You can come to the University of Buffalo and see what we're doing and help us share the gospel with students up there.

You can go on different trips that God might open the door for you to go.

And of course, you can be going to your neighbors all the time when God gives you opportunities to share.

Pray, give, go.

The fourth one is mobilizing.

Even it says here in Romans.

And how are they to preach unless they're sent?

So even Paul's talking about here, if people are going to be sent, it takes others to help mobilize them to go.

So maybe you're saying, I can't go, but I want to help mobilize other people to go.

Mobilize people in this church to go.

Mobilize a missionary to go to share the gospel with the nations.

And the last way that you can be involved is in welcoming.

You see, more and more, as the world changes, the world is coming to us.

So at the University of Buffalo, there are so many students that are coming to us that don't know who Jesus is.

They have no idea that he died on the cross.

We had a student from India last year tell us he never heard of the resurrection of Jesus.

And so here he is.

He's walking around on our campus.

We're building a relationship with him.

And we're able to share the gospel with him repeatedly.

And so we can welcome them.

We can welcome the nations as they come to us.

We can pick them up at the airport.

We can eat meals with them and be a part of walking in them.

So pray, give, go, mobilize, and welcome.

Friends, God's glory is to be cherished by his people and to be declared among all nations.

May we be a people

who use our lives to glorify God.

Friends, we have a wonderful national anthem.

Whitney Houston sang a wonderful rendition of our national anthem.

But now, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we have a new anthem to sing together, our international anthem of praise.

May we use our lives to take this song to the world

May we be a people who go singing, singing of God's glory to the whole world.

The great hymn goes like this.

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.

One more verse.

And when I think that God, his son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in.

That on the cross, my burden 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.

Let me pray.

Father in heaven, thank you so much for your word.

And thank you so much for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

that you have provided a way for us to escape judgment.

God, you are a holy God and a loving God.

And at Calvary is where we see who you really are.

The fullness of your holiness and the fullness of your love.

And God, thank you for saving us.

Thank you so much for the rich salvation that you've given to us.

And may we be a people who go singing

praising you and singing to others, talking about that you are a God of your works, of creation and salvation, talking about your name, who you are, and praising the glory of the cross.

God, may you open doors for us to be a light to the nations.

May you continue to bless your church here and continue to use them to help fulfill the great commission we pray in Jesus' name.