

Worship Transcript August 23rd, 2026

Worship leaders: Simba in NUC Brian in SUC Pianist: Sabrina in SUC

Prelude

Land Acknowledgement *projected*

Welcome

As a community that is rooted in God's love, we come from all walks of life, with different backgrounds and various identities. We all find a home in God's presence. May we welcome one another in this space and accept the welcome that is extended to us. Let us celebrate the hospitality of God and that of one another as we open our hearts, minds, and souls, to listen to the words of gathering.

Create Sacred Space

SUC-Brian

With excitement, with awe, with trust and hope, we gather in this sacred space. We gather with expectation, believing in the expression of the mystery among us. We seek that which is seeking us, to find ourselves in finding that which is finding us. We gather, seeking to be encouraged, renewed and restored. May we find wholeness, peace and comfort.

Let us allow the Holy Other, the divine, to embrace us and engage us in ways that may apply. Let us sing, praise, pray and celebrate this moment of grace, that our lives may be renewed.

We light these candles, to symbolize our relationship with the light of Christ and how we relate to one another.

Song: MV#18 Lord Prepare Me

Words and music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs Words and music copyright © 1982 for all territories of the world by Whole Armor & Full Armor Publishing Companies

Lord*, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you

Life & Work

Brian/Simba

Song: MV#1 Let Us Build a House vs 1,2, 4, 5

Words and Music: Marty Haugen copyright © GIA Publications, Inc.

Let us build a house where love can dwell and
all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how
hearts learn to forgive,
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of
faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream
God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as
symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and
live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger, bear the
image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named, their
songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of
faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Prayer

Creator, God and Spirit, we gather in your sacred presence. In you we find peace, yet we also find disturbance and confrontation. You encourage us, yet you also challenge us. May we find comfort, hope and wholeness. Renew us with your wisdom, equip us with your Spirit and sustain us with your word. With open hearts, we yield to your will and wait upon your presence. That we may experience your touch, your love and your embrace. Through Jesus, our Christ, we pray. Amen.

Theme Time: First Aid Kit

Song: MV154 Deep in Our Hearts vs 1,2,4

Words copyright © John Wesley Oldham 1995 Music copyright © Ron Klusmeier 1996

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;

deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 138 (1-8) *Your love endures forever*

I Give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands. Amen.

Song: VU#400 Lord Listen to Your Children Praying (X2)

Words and Music: Ken Medema 1970 Copyright © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power,
send us grace!

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1:15-17 & 2:1-10

SUC-Ken B

1: 15-17

Pharaoh spoke to the midwives of the Hebrews! - one was Shiphrah, and the other Puah – and said “When you assist the Hebrew women in childbirth, examine them on the birthing-stool. If the baby is a boy, kill it. If it is a girl, let it live.

2:1-10

There was a man from the house of Levi who had married a Levite woman, and she conceived and gave birth to a boy. And she saw the baby was good, so she hid it for three months. When she could hide the baby no longer, she took a papyrus basket, daubed it with bitumen and pitch, and put the child in it, and placed the basket among the reeds by the banks of the Nile. The baby's sister watched from a distance to learn what could happen.

Pharaoh's daughter came down to the Nile to bathe, while her attendants walked along the riverbank. She noticed the basket among the reeds and sent her attendant to fetch it. Opening it, she saw the baby-and how it wept! She was moved to pity and said, “This must be one of the Hebrews' children!” Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, “Do you want me to go and find a nurse for you among the Hebrews to suckle the child for you?” “Yes, go” she answered. So, the sister went off and brought the baby's own mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this child with you and suckle it for me, and I myself will pay you.” The woman took the child and nursed it. After the child was weaned, she brought it to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted it as her own. She called him Moses – “He Who Pulls Out” – for she said, “I pulled him out of the water.”

Song: TLUS #23 For Everyone Born vs 1,3,5

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1998 Hope Publishing Company Music: Brian Mann © 2006 admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBB Musik

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star over-head,
*and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

For those we neglect, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for those we neglect, the right to belong,
and God will delight when we are creators

*of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

For you and for me, a place at the table,
though wounded and sore, with need to
forgive,
in anger in hurt, a mind-set of mercy,
for you and for me, a new way to live,
*and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

Reflection: “When Courage & Compassion Interrupted Overcome Hate & Cruelty.”

The context of this text is rooted in a terrible relational crisis that humanity faced in the ancient times. The King of Egypt was seeking to control & dominate the Israelite growing community by eliminating all male children. The people who were tasked to carry out the exercise were the midwives. They quietly declined. In the process, one woman also decided to save her son. That is the story of Moses, son of **Jochebed, the wife of Amram**.

Justice does not come without courage. You can't work for justice if you are afraid. The mother of Moses was a daring mother, determined to save her son. It was an act of disregarding the King's edict. Call it an executive order, as our neighbors are used to. Disobeying an executive order is kind of undermining the authority, but in all issues of justice, they disobey illegal orders. This act of defiance could not be sustained due to the size of the child. she had to find another option, besides hiding a child. she hid him in the reeds along the river Nile. I hope there were no crocodiles. The courage of Miriam reminds us of Rosa Parks of the 1900s, the Oscar Romero in their day.

The courage and call for Justice should not be used as a tool to attack people's emotions. Not to blame everyone for injustice, but should be packaged in grace and compassion, as tools to call us to God's love. Love that saves life; love that endangers the practitioner. Mariam loved with a conscious strategy. She hatched a plan in a bit. **She went & called her mother, to become the baby-sitter.** Sometimes courage is not enough. How creative are we in saving lives, and transforming situations in our lives?

Miriam couldn't rescue the situation but she watched over the brother. Some seasons just need us to watch, pray and trust God for a hopeful ending. Some eras are dangerous but that should never deter us from our passion for protecting/saving lives. Sometimes when we feel powerless, God creates opportunities for us to suggest ideas that will redeem the situation. She had the grace to be there, to engage with the King's daughter, and spoke her mind. Fortunately, the princess accepted the suggestion. Let's not quit from trying. It's better to be available and wait for our opportunity, that to miss the opportunity. She watched, she saw, she engaged, and suggested.

In life, some seasons feel like abandonment. Other times, letting go might protect life. Jochebed saved her son by taking him out of the home, and the comfort it offered. Sometimes, vulnerability work for the good. Perseveration does not always come from over protection, but vulnerability. Hiding Moses on the banks of the river Nile ended up being a noble solution.

Moses' miracle could not be complete without Miriam. We are tasked to preserve life, be it human or otherwise. We have the opportunity to be someone's miracle in their life. we can stand and watch, even from afar, making sure they are not harmed. In the era of Media, technology, & others, we can use our resources to raise awareness, and suggest what it takes to resolve conundrums that threaten human or other creaturely lives. Preserving Moses ended up being a great thing because that opened an opportunity for the liberation of the whole tribe of Israel. The dreams we carry may be way bigger and greater than our own lives.

The faithfulness with which we serve will never be forgotten. The name of Pharaoh's daughter is never recorded, but her compassion looms so large that no one can miss it. Compassion crosses boundaries, sees other people's needs, asks; how can I help? not; “who do they look like?” Compassion does neither follow political lines, nor does compassion follow religious loyalty. Compassion knows no identity or geography. It follows the need, from a loving heart. Compassion leads to action, not just feelings like pity or sympathy. Compassion transforms situations, not just record what happens. Compassion transforms generations. Moses ended up leading to an Exodus.

The annals of history do not forget what Moses did, but it began by courageous and compassionate women & a brave little girl. Compassion is never tribal, or selectively biased. It is rooted in the love of God and it smiles at every one in need. Courage and compassion result in the realization of bigger dreams. Greatest civilizations were realized by dreams that were bigger than individuals. Watchfulness, Courage and Compassion gave us a transformation of the historical landscape. We too can transform our landscape. With watchfulness, courage and compassion, we can start movements that will outlive our dreams & passions. Let us try it.

Song: MV#12 Come Touch our Hearts vs 1&3

Words and music: Gordon Light copyright © 2002 Common Cup Company Arrangement copyright © 2002 Andrew Donaldson

Come touch our hearts that we may know
compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts

Come touch our minds and teach us how to
reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom,
come touch and bless our minds.

Offering Invitation

With humble hearts, let us present our offerings.

Song: What Can I Do

Words and music copyright © 2005 Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy www.paulrumbolt.com Arrangement copyright © Alan C. Whitmore

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. X2

Offering Prayer

With ready minds, willing spirits, and joyful hearts, we present our offerings. With these gifts, O God, we offer our various ministries. Accept and bless their work. In the name and Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Making a Difference: Faithful Futures

SUC-Ken B

Across Southern Ontario, The Hub Community Network is creating welcoming spaces where youth and young adults can find connection, community, and a deeper understanding of God's inclusive love. Supported by Mission and Service, The Hub is helping young people discover spaces where they can explore faith, build relationships, and find their place in the church.

Every generation faces its own challenges, and many young people today are carrying significant pressures. Rising costs, uncertainty about the future, and increased feelings of isolation can make it difficult to find a sense of stability and belonging. For many youth and young adults, finding a community where they feel welcomed, known, and accepted can make a meaningful difference.

The Hub responds to this need by creating opportunities for young people to gather and connect. Through churches, camps, small groups, worship services, and online spaces, The Hub brings youth and young adults together in environments where they can ask questions, share experiences, and grow in faith alongside others.

These gatherings are more than events on a calendar. A shared meal, a conversation with a mentor, or time spent with peers can become an important moment of connection. These relationships help young people feel supported as they navigate life's challenges and continue discovering who they are and who they are becoming.

The Hub also works alongside congregations, helping churches strengthen their youth ministries and develop lasting relationships with young people. By supporting communities in creating spaces of

welcome and inclusion, The Hub helps congregations move beyond the initial invitation to attend, and grow toward building meaningful connections where young people know they belong. Our Mission and Service gifts help make this ministry possible. Through this support, The Hub Community Network can continue creating spaces where youth and young adults experience community, explore faith, and encounter the inclusive love of God. Our gifts through Mission and Service support ministries that walk alongside young people and create places of belonging. Let's give generously so youth and young adults can continue being welcomed into spaces of connection and community.

Prayers of the People

God of compassion, we thank you for your grace, your profound love and acceptance. We thank you trusting that you hear prayers of our hearts; for all who rejoice and celebrate, all who mourn when the circles of life are broken, when loved ones depart or any loss. You hear prayers for all who are grateful, all who suffer pain of any kind, all who are afraid and anxious, all who are weary and all who are lonely. For all who are affected by natural disasters across the globe, for victims of war, & aggression, we pray. Meet each one of us at our point of need.

We pray for leaders of nations, for reconciliation, for justice & peace. Compassionate God, things in this world are not as You would have them to be. Violence and evil are so active in our world today, and we acknowledge that love and compassion are necessary combatants against these vices. We pray that you may grant us hearts full of kindness and mercy for those who are around us and use us to tear down the strongholds of darkness. We pray for your church, that your Spirit may lead us to places where our ministry will make a difference.

Call us to the frontlines of justice and to stand in defense of the vulnerable. To be the seed of change and transformation. To lay the foundations of dreams that are bigger than us and our time. Send us out with courage, compassion and grace, that justice may be born from our work. That our world may be happy again and the vulnerable may feel safe. These and other things, we lay before your presence in faith, through Jesus who taught us to pray;

The Prayer Jesus taught (spoken)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.....

Song: VU#424 May the God of Hope

Words: (v1) Music: Alvin Schutmaat Public Domain Words: (v 2) Fred Kaan copyright © 1993 Hope Publishing Company, Stainer & Bell Ltd. Music: Argentine folk melody.

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

*Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

May the God of healing free the earth from
fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and
pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment
clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

*Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

Blessing

May the God who dances in creation, Christ who embraces us with human love, and the Holy Spirit who shakes our lives like thunder, bless us, drive us out with power, to fill the world with justice. The blessing of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit go with you. Amen.