Living Worship

Reflections,
prayers,
scripture, and
recorded new hymns
for
public worship and
personal devotions

from the series:

Fresh Views of Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

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Revelation 4

(NASB)

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."

And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

That Place

Revelation 4

My Father,
there is a place that fully reflects Your glory,
the beauty and magnificence of Your being,
a place where everyone fully responds to
You and Your greatness,
praising You,
serving You,
bowing to You continually,

There is a place where the worship has nothing humanly contrived but flows purely from the reality of Your being, proclaiming

Your holiness,
Your power,
Your everlastingness,
a place where all You have made
owns You and worships You as
Creator.

Father, I want to live in that place. I want my heart and life to be that place.

Father, forgive our small ideas about who You are and what You do. Help us to know You and trust You for who You truly are.

Hymn recording: My Mind Will Be Your Holy Place

My Mind Will Be Your Holy Place

Psalm 101:2-4; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: 17th Century Irish Melody and Ken Bible PSALM 101 L.M. w. Bridge

Isaiah 6:1-8

(NASB)

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said.

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said,

"Woe is me, for I am ruined!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I live among a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

We Need to See You

Father, we are flooded with so many needs,

but our real need is

You.

We need to know You for all You are,

the One true God,

high and lifted up,

the Holy One,

our Source and Goal,

the All-in-all,

our Eternal Father.

We need to see You for all You are.

We need to trust You always for all You are.

Lift our eyes, Father. Help us to see You.

Hymn recording: O Living God

O Living God

TUNE: O Shenandoah



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Psalm 63:1-8

(NASB)

O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul is satisfied as with [d]marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.

When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the night watches,
For You have been my help,
And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to You;
Your right hand upholds me.

The Importance of Being

```
We get distracted by the "stuff" of life,
      our material possessions.
But if you've ever disposed of a person's belongings after they've died,
      you know how quickly all our treasures go
             from priceless
             to worthless.
We also get distracted by our doing.
Don't misunderstand me:
      our actions are critically important.
But our Christianity is rooted in
      being,
      not doing.
First and foremost, our Father is concerned about
      our moment-by-moment relationship with Him.
He wants us to
      love Him,
      trust Him,
      turn to Him,
      talk to Him, and
      rejoice in Him.
He wants our
      thoughts and
      desires
to revolve around Him in the eternal now.
My destiny does not center around material things.
I am His child,
destined to share the
      life.
      love,
      authority, and
      eternal glory
of His holy Son, Jesus Christ.
The Father wants my consciousness
to be filled with Him,
      just like Jesus Christ.
But He is not a harsh master,
      driving us to a duty.
```

He is a loving Father,

gently,
oh-so-patiently
drawing us closer.
His burning desire is to
bless us with Himself.

Hymn recording: **Greater Than My Words**



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

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Christ Alone

As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. (Psalm 42:1-2, NASB)

When I'm alone with my wife, she wants my mind to be alone with her, listening to her, focused on her, not a million miles away.

I've found that Christ is no different.

I tend to get wrapped up in my work,
even in my service to Him,
elbow-deep in the present and
dreaming into the future.

But He keeps bringing me back to himself.

He reminds me that
no matter what happens or
doesn't happen in my life,
the only lasting joy I will ever have is
the joy of being in His presence
in the present moment.

Jesus wants us to build our world, not around our work, but around Him.

Hymn recording: Only You

Only You

Galations 2:20



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Worship

```
"An hour is coming,
and now is,
when the true worshipers will worship the Father in
spirit and
truth;
for such people the Father seeks
to be His worshipers.
God is spirit, and
those who worship Him must worship in
spirit and
truth." (John 4:23-24, NIV)
```

Do you want to truly worship your Father? Worship as Jesus Christ worshiped. His worship rose from His heart and His life, not just from His lips.

His worship was prayer, complete trust, obedience, service, and self-sacrifice.

This is the worship that pleases the Father.

Hymn recording: Father, Help Me Worship You

Father, Help Me Worship You

John 4:23-24



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible LIVING PRAISE 7.6.7.6.7.5.

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The Greatest Commandment

In our worship and in our living, what is most important to God? What does our loving Father want from us and for us? Jesus said it clearly:

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:34-40, NIV)

Loving Him completely, with all that we have and are--that is what our Father wants for us.

If loving Him is the sum and center of His desire for us, our hymns should have the same goal. Their purpose should be to help us *love the Lord our God with all our heart* and with all our soul and with all our mind.

But let's be specific and practical. What did Jesus have in mind when He said that life's highest goal is to *love God with all our heart, soul, and mind*? Is He talking about wholehearted worship when we gather together? Is He urging us toward emotional freedom in our worship? Or does He mean something more?

Look at Jesus' own life. He is our living example (John 13:15). We are to walk as He walked (1 John 2:6). How did He love His Father with all His heart, soul, and mind? By His words and His example, how did he teach His disciples to follow this greatest commandment?

Read the gospels. Read them hungrily, asking God to enlighten you. You'll see that for Christ, loving God was far more than telling God how great He was. Worship was not an experience. It was a life. He loved and worshiped His Father through daily prayer, faith, obedience, self-sacrifice, holiness, and patient endurance. He prized His Father's approval, not seeking His own will nor the praise of other people. Hearing and obeying the Father was His constant goal and source of strength.

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." (John 4:34, NIV)

For Jesus, the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) was a lifestyle. He sought only His Father's glory, Kingdom and will. He depended on the Father constantly and

completely. He forgave all who wronged Him, even His murderers, and He turned away from evil, keeping His eyes on the Father.

The life of Jesus teaches us the meaning of the word "worship". Our church services are only the smallest part of it. Worship is 168 hours per week, not one hour on Sunday. Worship is far more than telling God how great He is. Worship is a full life response to Him. It is daily walking with Him in faith, love, and obedience.

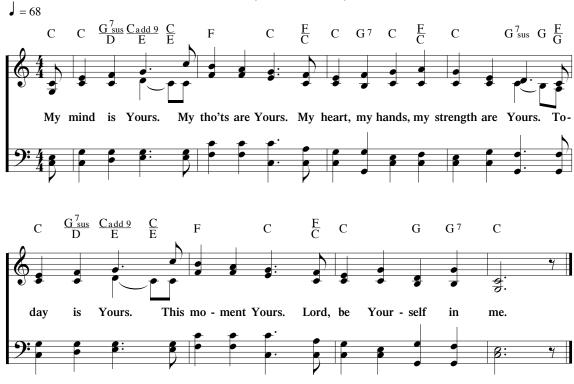
That should be the goal of our hymn singing. Our hymns should help us worship as Christ worshiped and walk as He walked, denying ourselves, taking up our crosses daily, and following Him.

Our hymns should also help us live out the second greatest commandment: to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus said this commandment was very close to the first, and indeed it is. We cannot love God without loving and serving those He loves so much. Our hymns should encourage us and guide us to Christian relationships in our homes, our workplaces, our churches, and in our world at large.

Hymn recording: My Mind Is Yours

My Mind Is Yours

Matthew 22:34-38; Mark 12:28-30; Romans 12:1



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible ROMANS 12:1 4.4.8.4.4.6.

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Matthew 18:1-5

(NIV)

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said:

"Truly I tell you,
unless you change and
become like little children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
And whoever welcomes one such child in my name
welcomes me.

Luke 11:11-13

(NIV)

"Which of you fathers,
if your son asks for a fish,
will give him a snake instead?
Or if he asks for an egg,
will give him a scorpion?
If you then,
though you are evil,
know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father in heaven
give the Holy Spirit
to those who ask him!"

Come like Jesus

```
not in pride,
       but in humility,
not in strength,
       but as a helpless child.
I come with no worthiness of my own,
       no righteousness,
       no goodness,
      no wisdom,
       no power.
But I come joyfully,
       eagerly,
       comfortably,
for I come as Your child.
I come like Jesus,
Your dearly-loved Son,
       utterly dependent, but
       utterly confident in You.
```

Lord, I come to You,

Father, help me to talk to You simply, in faith, as a child to his father, asking plainly and persistently for what I need.

Hymn recording: We Are Children

We Are Children



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: George F. Root; arr. by Ken Bible JEWELS 8.6.8.5.7.7.7.5.

Psalm 146:1-2 (NASB)

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord while I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Unworthy

But You want my praise, Lord.

You ask for it.

And I remember that

praise doesn't come from my song.

It comes from me.

Trust doesn't come

from my words,

but from my heart.

True worship and submission

don't come from my singing,

but from my doing.

Holy Father, Son, and Spirit,

fill me with yourself.

Cleanse my thoughts.

Purify this temple completely, Lord.

Sanctify me to Your use.

Then make me

a vessel of Your praise.

Make my entire life

an instrument of worship,

giving glory to You

throughout all the ages,

forever and ever.

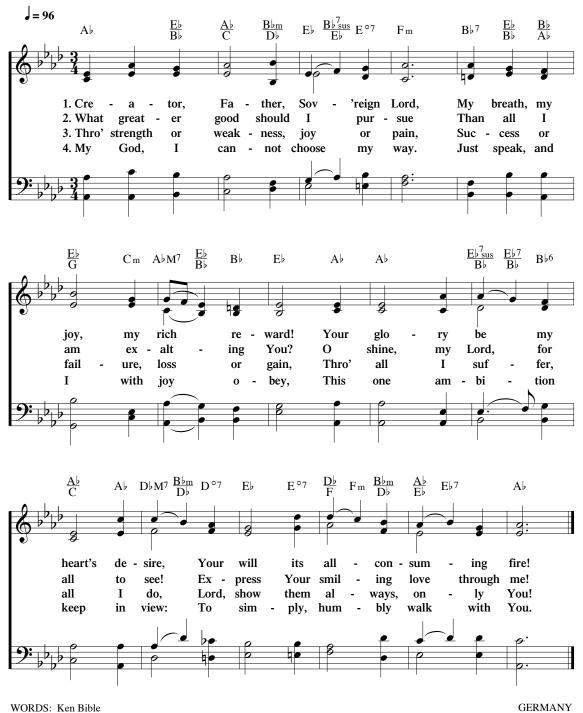
Amen, Lord.

Amen.

Hymn recording: A Servant's Prayer

A Servant's Prayer

TUNE: Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (GERMANY) Micah 6:8; Matthew 6:9-10; 16:24; 26:42; John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 12:27-28; 21:19



MUSIC: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

GERMANY L.M.

Alt. Tune: BINNEY

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Psalm 18:1-2

(NASB)

"I love You, O Lord,
my strength."

The Lord is my rock and
my fortress and
my deliverer,

My God,
my rock,
in whom I take refuge;

My shield and
the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold.

Make Every Song a Prayer

```
My Lord,
it's not the words I
      say or
      sing.
You hear my heart.
Praise rises from within,
      carried not by sound,
      but by love that longs to be heard.
When my love quits singing,
      my prayer is ended,
      my praise is done,
even though the noise goes on.
Precious Jesus,
Loving Father,
      focus my heart
not on myself,
      not on the song,
but on You alone.
Make every song
      a prayer,
      a praise,
      a sacrifice pleasing to You.
```

Hymn recording: The Reason We Sing

The Reason We Sing

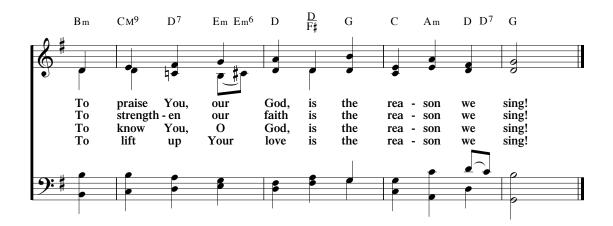
TUNE: Ye Servants of God (HANOVER)

Psalm 42:1-3; 63:1; 100; John 15:9-12; Philippians 3:7-11; 1 John 3:1



WORDS: Ken Bible HANOVER MUSIC: William Croft 10.10.11.11.

Alt. Tune: LYONS



Philippians 3:7-14

(NASB)

Whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss

for the sake of Christ.

More than that, I count all things to be loss

in view of the surpassing value of

knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,

for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and

count them but rubbish

so that I may gain Christ, and

may be found in Him,

not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law,

but that which is through faith in Christ,

the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

that I may know

Him and

the power of His resurrection and

the fellowship of His sufferings,

being conformed to His death;

in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained it or

have already become perfect,

but I press on

so that I may lay hold of

that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I do not regard myself

as having laid hold of it yet;

but one thing I do:

forgetting what lies behind and

reaching forward to what lies ahead,

I press on toward the goal for the prize of

the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

I Need You, Father

```
I know You only partially
      but I know that You are
             stunningly,
             overwhelmingly real.
You show me Yourself, and
      though it seems only a glimpse,
      I see that You are
             all You say You are
             and more.
You want me to know You, and You
      lead and
      prod and
      entice me toward knowing You better.
The more I know You,
      the more I know myself.
And the more I know myself,
      the more I realize how
             deeply,
             completely, and
             constantly I need You.
```

I need Your strength.
I need Your wisdom.
I need Your holiness.
I need Your peace.

Indescribable God,

O Father, I need You!

As we live and serve, Father, it is all Your life, Your strength, Your Spirit, Your provision, and Your blessing. All we are and all that is accomplished through us depends entirely on our living relationship with You. You are our only source.

Hymn recording: We Need You, Holy God

We Need You, Holy God

TUNE: Rejoice, the Lord Is King (DARWALL)

Psalm 42:1-2; 62:1-2; 63:1; 123:1-2;

John 5:19-20, 30; 14:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 2:5-8



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: John Darwall
6.6.6.6.8.8.

Psalm 139

(NASB)

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know [a]when I sit down and [b]when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to You.

For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;
Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.

When I awake, I am still with You.

O that You would slay the wicked, O God;
Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.
For they speak [I]against You wickedly,
And Your enemies take Your name in vain.
Do I not hate those who hate You, O Lord?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?
I hate them with the utmost hatred;
They have become my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Forever Faithful

```
I know I can pray anytime.
I know that life's
      purest joy and
      peace
are only a breath away.
But I forget.
I get wrapped up in
      my own little world.
Still, You keep coming to me.
You prompt me
      through a need or
             a crisis,
      through some anxiety or
      through my own inner neediness.
You prompt me through a blessing,
      then You remind me to thank You for it.
Through my busyness,
      my worry,
      my weakness, and
      my foolish pride,
```

Jesus, I know You are here with me.

Thank You, Jesus. You are forever faithful! You are forever with me.

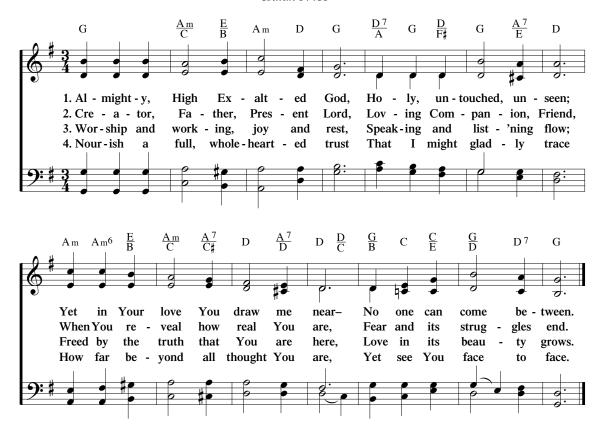
drawing me, and welcoming me to You.

You keep calling me,

Hymn recording: Present Lord

Present Lord

TUNE: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee (ST. AGNES) *Isaiah 57:15*



WORDS: Ken Bible ST. AGNES MUSIC: John B. Dykes C.M.

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