

All things to all people

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Preacher: Andy Banks

[0:00] Through worship. Today is Serving Sunday. And that means our youth are serving us today.

! I'm going to ask you to give them a round of applause in anticipation.! They'll be helping with the registration of people for our weekend away.

They'll be helping in the groups. And you know why they're doing this, folks? Because they acknowledge what Paul wrote in the chapter 12, verse 27, in his first letter to the Corinthian church. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. Does that sound familiar? Would you say it with me?

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. So let's take a few minutes to settle our minds as we enter God's house.

[1:18] You've come in through the door, but bring all of you into his house now to give him all the praise and glory, as it is entirely properly fitting and appropriate to praise God.

In all language, they would say, it is meet and right so to do. So let's be still. Thank you, Father God, that we can come into your house to sing your praises, to listen to you speaking through what is sung, what is said, what's read and taught today.

Thank you that we will be changed on the inside, so that we can serve you on the outside. Amen. Amen. Amen. Revelation 4 gives us a glimpse through John's vision of what heaven is like.

So would you stand and join me in praising like the angels do, in praising like the 24 elders in heaven. Would you stand, please?

[2:42] You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

And we're going to sing. Worthy of every song we could ever sing Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring Worthy of every song we could ever sing We live for you, we live for you Jesus the name above every other name Jesus the only one who could ever sing Worthy of every song we could ever sing We live for you, we live for you

Holy, there is no one like you There is none beside you Open up my eyes in wonder Show me who you are and fill me With your heart and lead me In your love to those around me Jesus the name above every other name Jesus the name above every other name Jesus the only one who could ever sing We live for you, we live for you We live for you, we live for you

Holy, there is no one like you There is none beside you Open up my eyes in wonder Show me who you are and fill me With your heart and lead me In your love to those around me Lord, there is no one like you There is no one like you There is one beside you Open up my eyes in wonder Show me who you are and fill me With your heart and healing In your love to those around me I will build my life upon your love

It is a firm foundation I will burn my trust in you alone And I will not be shaken I will build my life upon your love It is a firm foundation I will build my trust in you alone And I will not be shaken Holy, there is no one like you There is none beside you Open up my eyes in wonder Show me who you are and fill me

[7:35] With your heart and lead me In your love to those around me Holy, there is no one like you There is none beside you Open up my eyes in wonder Do you want to show me Who you are and fill me With your heart and lead me Give your love to those around me Sing with me Worthy of every song We can ever sing Worthy of all the praise we can ever bring Worthy

music To some music To some music

To some music To some music To some music To some music To some music To some music To some music To some music To some music To some music To some music To some music To some music He's bleeding.

Bye. Bye.

They provide such joy. Don't you think so? Yes, they are. They are a bundle of joy.

So here at Union Baptist, we believe that giving into the work of Christ, our Father in heaven, is part of our worship.

[18:54] If you look at our website, we actually have a page called Giving. And God has called us to be generous. Generous not just with our money, but with our time and our talents.

And I'm going to add our smiles and our hugs. Our giving supports the church and its work in the local community and abroad.

And it makes a positive difference. Giving financially, regularly and sacrificially. You know that word sacrificially means it might hurt, but you're going to do it anyway.

Because you understand the significance of giving. This allows us to support our developed and emerging ministries. And enables Union to fulfill its vision, which is to see how we come transformed by God through his loving, serving, and worshipping church.

So we ask if you regularly attend to give. Give so we can continue to do the work that we do. There is an offering box on the window to my left.

[20:07] You can actually put cash checks in there. There's also a tapping machine. You could tap and pay. We make it as easy as possible. You can do it through the bank.

But we thank you for giving. And people have always given. And I assume people will always give because of the Holy Spirit at work in all of us.

So let's pray for the offering. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for everything that you give us on a daily basis. We believe that giving to the work of your church is indeed a part of our worship.

Help us to give joyfully of our time, talents, and money. In Jesus' name. Amen. And we're going to have Sheena and Chris doing This Time Tomorrow.

In this segment, Sheena will explain what This Time Tomorrow means. Thank you, Sheena. Well, good morning, everybody.

[21:10] I'm Sheena, and I'm a deacon for Community Ministry. Today we're having, as Judith said, another in our series of This Time Tomorrow. And that's when we hear from different people in the congregation about what they do in their weekday lives.

And today we're going to hear from Chris about what he does during the week. Because as a church, our desire is to grow in discipleship. And for most of us, that means learning how to live for God in our everyday weekday lives.

As we've been saying, our time together in church is a preparation for what we'll face in the week ahead. It's a time when we can be encouraged and supported, renewed and equipped for what God wants to do through us.

God has placed each one of us where we are for a reason. So that through us, he can work out his purposes in the world. So one of the joys of doing This Time Tomorrow is that we can find out more about who's sitting around us.

So today you're going to hear from Chris. And I know you're going to be really interested to see what he does during the week. So, Chris, if you stand here. Thank you. Where are you going to be This Time Tomorrow?

[22:18] So I shall be in the British Library in London. I've been working there for about ten years now. And who would you be... What are you going to do there, I should say? Right, yes.

So, basically, I am a metadata systems analyst, which sounds rather complicated. In fact, what it is really is it's about helping people to find books, journals, sound recordings, that sort of thing.

And it's really about, you know, if we didn't have people like me doing that, I mean, you'd just end up with a sort of a story with piles of stuff and nobody would be able to find anything.

So this is all about trying to make all of that material available to researchers and students and actually anybody who's interested in it. Great.

And who are you likely to meet there? So usually it's other librarians within the library, I'll be honest. But sometimes we get visits or, you know, we are in contact with other libraries, either in the United Kingdom or much further apart.

[23:29] Great. And so what are some of the joys of the job and challenges? So joys of the job are that, I mean, it's just a great group of people.

Librarians are not the sort of timid creatures that I think often they're portrayed as in films and things like that. You know, they're a really interesting group of people.

So that's a real joy to be working with them. We have a great building. So it's a real joy to be working in that building. As you could see in the first slide, the views just across it are amazing.

So, you know, that's a really great privilege. And now let me think. There was a challenge.

Oh, yeah. Move on to the challenges. Yeah. Okay. So challenges. That's a good point. So two years ago, we suffered a really major Russian cyber attack.

[24:33] It was in all the papers. And luckily, they didn't manage to get our data, but they did wipe out all of our software. So for the last two years, we have been absolutely flat out trying to get that software back.

So it meant that we were all really far busier than normal. We lost a lot of staff during the period. I was off for four weeks with stress last year as a result of this.

I didn't know what it was at first, but it turned out to be adrenaline that was causing the trouble. The good news is that we got the biggest catalogue back online on the 27th of November last year.

So that was a wonderful day for us. Yeah. So that really was an absolutely huge thing. It was absolutely in the press. It's one of the biggest cyber attacks ever.

So it's not to be underestimated, is it? So, yeah. So Chris is still standing, by the way. So, yeah. Just about. So how have you seen God at work?

[25:41] So God was with me right through all of this. I mean, last year was not an easy year at all. But because not only did I have to be off work for quite a long time, it was really difficult to come back as well.

I had to fight my way back and he was with me as I did that. All right. Thank you. So how can we pray for you? So getting opportunities to talk about God in the library is not easy because we come from really all faiths and none from all over the planet.

So, but on the other hand, we drink a lot of coffee. And, yeah. Librarians and coffee, you know, it's just, they go together. So there are lots of opportunities over coffee to bring, to have interesting conversations.

Okay. And I'd just like to, I would like that you would pray that I would get more opportunities to do that, actually. Okay. Well, let's pray for you, Chris. Father God, we thank you for placing Chris in this vital role.

We pray for continued help through the challenges that he and his colleagues have faced to recover from this massive cyber attack. We pray for energy, clarity, and wisdom day by day.

[27:03] And for opportunities to talk about his faith with those he works with. May you give him peace and joy as he works for you in his weekday life. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Thank you, Chris. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I just think it's wonderful that every aspect of our life, God sees.

And he understands and he cares for. And it's wonderful that we share aspects of our life. Stress is not one of the things God wants for us.

And so he surrounds us with people to pray for us, to hold us during these times, and he gives us respite. So I'm just going to flip a little in that I found my praying hands badge.

And I think what this time tomorrow has brought into my spirit is we need to pray for each other as much as we can. Prayer is the tool, the most powerful tool, the most wonderful gift that he has given to us.

[28:18] And I'm sure when Chris was in stress, people were praying for him. So if you today have a thank you prayer, a need, anything that comes into your heart today, take that opportunity.

Speak to somebody with a praying hands badge. And we will pray for you because that's our job in his kingdom. And we love it. It's one of those jobs that the remuneration is beyond anything we could ask for.

Because the Bible says the prayer of a fervent man availeth much. Sorry, I'm a King James child. But it means when we pray and we believe that this is the work of God, amazing things happen. So thank you. Now we're going to sing. Would you stand and sing with us? In Christ alone. And that's also part of our prayer.

That whatever we desire, it is to be found in Christ alone. Let's sing together. In Christ alone.

[29:50] My hope is found. He is my life, my strength, my soul. This cornerstone, this solid frown.

Run through the vintures, drowning storm. What heights above, what depths of peace. When things are still and striving steep.

My comfort of peace. My comfort of peace. My holy Lord. Here in the love of Christ I stand.

To the heart of peace. guitar solo guitar solo

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