

HOW SHALL WE STAND?

A CALL TO WORSHIP

Music Emphasis Week

March 10th - 17th 2018



Tobago Mission of Seventh-day Adventists



HOW SHALL WE STAND? A CALL TO WORSHIP

Tobago Mission of Seventh-day Adventists

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FOREWORD

How Shall We Stand? A Call to Worship

This “Music Emphasis Week” is the first of its kind in the Tobago Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. It is an initiative of the Music Department of the Mission and the intention is to provide a special opportunity for greater devotion to God through the music ministry. This initiative should spark a transformation in our music so that our worship can be more meaningful, Christ-centred and in line with our mission and message.

Our inaugural theme is *“How Shall We Stand? A Call to Worship”*. Music and Worship are fundamental aspects of the Church and the Christian’s life in general. ‘Music is one of God’s great gifts to man and is one of the most important elements in a spiritual program. It is an avenue of communication with God and is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth’ (Education, p.168). The Oxford English Dictionary defines worship as an act of reverence and adoration for a deity. Worship is certainly more than that and whilst it involves some measure of reverence and adoration, it is a lifestyle and should positively affect every part of our being.











In Romans 12:1 and Revelation 14:7 we are called to offer ourselves as living sacrifices unto God and to give glory and worship to Him who made heaven and earth. We tend to offer ‘sacrifices of worship’ by giving of our time, treasure and talents but in an age where our Saviour’s return is imminent, and the enemy is desperately seeking out souls to devour, God is calling us to live every moment in the wonder of worship because we are the sacrifice that He desires most. Our Heavenly Father wants us to constantly dwell in His presence so that we would be able to stand in these last days.

The S.D.A. Church is facing a challenge to re-examine the theological base for the choice and performance of her music. We hope and pray that the church will respond to this challenge by promoting the composition, playing and singing of songs that align to our mission and message and fittingly express the hope that burns within our hearts (1 Peter 3:15).

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How to Use this Instrument

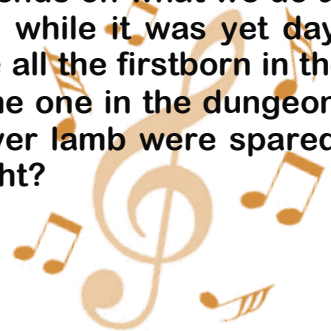
- ♦ The daily readings are *'Sermon Helps'* not sermons. We are giving you the opportunity to develop on them to make the information work best for your congregation. Please allow all additions to be born out of prayerful research from the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy and Musicology and not one's personal feelings on the subject.
- ♦ One or both Sabbaths should be a musical celebration of God's love and answered prayers: A Salvation focus.
- ♦ **Suggestion for Nightly programs**
 - Worship in Song (*Song Service*)
 - Welcome / Introduction
 - Praise God in Prayer
 - Selected Hymns
 - Worship from the Bible (*Readings / Songs from Scripture*)
 - Praise Nugget (*Special Music / Poetry in Song*)
 - Sermonette
 - Prayer Focus



Midnight Praise and Prayer: Weapons of Spiritual Warfare

Scriptural References: Acts 16:12-26, Daniel 6:10

- Story backdrop: Paul and Silas were traveling to various cities advising and strengthening the believers. Lydia and her household accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour in Philippi and invited them to her home in Thyatira. A spirit was removed from a woman who was a soothsayer. Her masters used her situation to make money, and as the situation was ended, they were upset. They falsely accused Paul and Silas causing them to be arrested, stripped, beaten and imprisoned. Things were not looking good.
- Note what happened but for whose glory: your prayer and praise are powerful spiritual weapons. Sometimes when we come to church, it is not easy to get our praise going based on what happened during the week or that very day, but it is necessary. These men were offering a sacrifice of praise. I do not think it was easy to get that song started. They had been wrongfully accused, whipped, stripped, and thrown into prison. For all, they knew they had been beaten and execution could be next.
- Praising in my 'prison' situations: Satan had tried to put an end to their ministry. He wanted to cause them to be wary of their cause and doubtful of their Lord. But, they knew what to do, they knew whom to look to, and God turned it around. Our text said, *"At midnight."* There is an old song that says, *"It is easy to sing when the sun is shining bright, but you need a song in your heart in the night."* "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments (Psalm 119:62).
- Dark hour praise as practice for dark hour times: Verses 25 and 26 - "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison shook and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bands were loosed". We have an account here of prayer and praise unto the Lord that caused things to be shaken and doors to open. In fact, in this case, all doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.
- What will we do at midnight? Midnight is a milestone so to speak. The night is half over, and with each minute we get closer to the dawn. The question we face is: can we make it until daybreak? The answer depends on what we do at midnight, what decision we make, and did we prepare while it was yet day. Exodus 12:29 tells us that at midnight the Lord did smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from that of Pharaoh to the firstborn of the one in the dungeon. Only the ones who had applied the blood of the Passover lamb were spared. Only those who had prepared. What will you do at midnight?



- What you do at midnight depends a great deal on what you do now. Jesus said work while it is yet day. How we come out of a trial often depends on how we went into it. Paul told Timothy to be a good soldier. Soldiers prepare for battle in time of peace: they practice constantly. When the enemy is closing in, you do not have time to get out the Book and find out how to load your weapon. I have heard soldiers discuss their training in the army: they are taught to assemble and disassemble their weapons blindfolded, so if need be, they could do it in the dark because their life might depend on it.

Friends we are in a spiritual warfare and many Christians not only don't know how their weapons work, but they are not even aware that they have any. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4). Ephesians 6:11 admonishes us to put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil".

- Dark hour praise can result in the salvation of others: when Paul and Silas began to praise God and to sing in the midst of that prison, they were using spiritual weapons. Everyone heard them praising and all reaped the blessing when all doors were opened and all chains were loosed. Lives were also saved and changed as the actions of these men led the jailer and his family to Christ. Paul and Silas were eventually freed the following day.
- Practice makes Permanent: the Bible says that Daniel was in the habit of praying three times a day before he was thrown into the den of lions and that is why the lion's mouths were shut. You do not have time to figure out how prayer and praise work as you are being thrown to the lions. When things go wrong, some are in the habit of praying and praising and some are in the practice of cursing. What will you do at midnight? Will you turn to God or will you turn on God? The point is that we are to prepare for midnight before midnight comes.
- Stay filled with the things of God in the midst of your trial. What will you do at midnight? If the cry came tonight, would you be ready, or would you have to get something in order? Let me ask you, "If the midnight cry came, has the Spirit been received, has the praise been offered?" Isaiah 30:29 says, Ye shall have a song as in the night: and gladness of heart. Do you have a song for the night?

Prayer Focus: Lord, help me to get into the practice of midnight praise so that it produces hope for those around me

Suggested Hymns: #88 ~ I Sing the Mighty Power of God
 #524 ~ 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
 #528 ~ A Shelter in the Time of Storm
 #529 ~ Under His Wings
 #618 ~ Stand up! Stand up for Jesus



The Language of Music (It Speaks to me)

Scriptural Reference: Joel 2:1; Judges 5; Isaiah 26:1-3; Colossians 3:15-17

- **Music speaks to me in my situation.** When talking about music, it may affect one's emotions and the human mind in a number of ways. Each individual is affected the same way based on the mood created at one given time /occasion. If we are willing to listen, we will hear the voice of music speaking to us. This voice is a universal language that is expressed by various cultures around the world. Some of the ways music can speak to us is in time of war, in time of victory, in time of peace and even in times of love, kindling that fire between spouses when that time is right. Music can set the mood for that time with your special someone (*and I must emphasise married couples*). The right kind of music excites and brings pleasurable thoughts to mind, leaving long-lasting smiles of exuberance. The wisest man that ever lived wrote the Songs of Solomon as a 'love song' to his wife so even 'love songs' can be appropriate when utilized correctly (consider Songs of Solomon chapters 6 and 7).
- **Music speaks to where I ought to be instead of where I am:** it could lift me into 'battle mode'. Let us look at the Bible for examples: in preparation for battle or war the loud disturbing blasting of trumpets / horns were heard by armies a far off. This was intended to scare or drive fear into the minds of the opponent. We find evidence of this in Joel chapter 2. Whenever the trumpets were sounded, it was the language of war speaking: be ready or face the consequence. Of course, there is always a victory song that buoys the spirit of the people, it tells them that they have won the battle and God is to be praised. Judges chapter 5 tells us that Deborah and Barak sang a victory song to the Lord for avenging Israel. After war comes peace like after a storm there is a calm, a moment of reflection, we can consider Isaiah 26:1-3 and Colossians 3:15 -16.



- Music must also be a language of truth. The song *'My dear departed loved ones over in heaven with Jesus'* cannot be a 'nice song' since it conflicts with what scripture plainly teaches. Another example is attending the wedding reception of a Christian and hearing the D.J. playing *'Stealing love on the side'*. Something must be wrong with that as it conflicts with the lifestyle we are called upon to live as Bible believing people. Some favourite hymns that speak truth are: *'A mighty fortress is our God'*; *'Great is thy faithfulness'*; *'The Lord is Coming'*; *'Jesus what a friend for sinners'* and the list goes on and on.

Prayer Focus: Lord, show me the music that speaks for you and help me to grow in the love of your voice.

Suggested Hymns: #461 ~ Be Still, My Soul
#608 ~ Faith is the Victory
#612 ~ Onward Christian Soldiers
#499 ~ What a Friend we have in Jesus
#99 ~ God will take care of You



Music and Worship

Scriptural Reference: 2 Chronicles 5:13,14; Joshua 24:15

- As Christians the Bible is our only spiritual source of reference as it gives us insight into the connection between music and worship and what is acceptable to God – *worship is the key* – in the book of Ezekiel the Lord through the prophet communicated his relentless desire to restore Israel back to himself, to renew His covenant with them and for them to put away their strange gods and idol worship – this we should take particular note of and use as our guide.
- Music and worship combined is God’s design. In the book of 2 Chronicles 5:13,14 this is very observable; it was not when they offered sacrifices, but when they sang the praises of God, that God gave them this token of his favour; for the sacrifice of praise pleaseth the Lord better than that of an ox or bullock (Ps. 69:30,31)
- Music and worship combined forms a platform for our victory. All the singers and musicians were employed, those of all the three families; and, to complete the concert, 120 priests, with their trumpets, joined with them, all standing at the east end of the altar, on that side of the court which lay outmost towards the people (v. 12) and when this part of the service began, the glory of God appeared. Observe that it was when they were unanimous, when they were as one, to make one sound (Uni - verse)
- Music and Worship sets the stage for unity and from the place of unity amazing things happen. People who sing the same song tend to ‘jump together’. The Holy God descended on the apostles when they met with one accord (Acts 2:1-4). Where unity is the Lord commands the blessing: observe that it was when they were lively and hearty, and lifted up their voices to praise the Lord. We serve God acceptably when we are fervent in spirit, serving Him: observe that it was when they were, in their praises, celebrating the everlasting mercy and goodness of God.



- As there is one saying oftener repeated in scripture than this, His mercy endureth for ever (*twenty-six times in one psalm, Ps. 136, and often elsewhere*), so there is none more signally owned from heaven; for it was not the expression of some rapturous flights that the priests were singing when the glory of God appeared, but this plain song, He is good and his mercy endureth for ever. God's goodness is His glory and He is pleased when we give Him the glory of it.
- God in His mercy has given us the choice – by His sacrifice on the cross, we can accept or we can refuse – we can sing the song of the saints or dance to the music of the devil and in the words of Joshua 24:15 *“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”*

Prayer Focus: Lord, let my choice of music be appropriate for my worship to you.

Suggested Hymns: #1 ~ Praise to the Lord
#6 ~ O Worship The Lord
#189 ~ All That thrills My Soul
#249 ~ Praise Him! Praise Him!
#308 ~ Wholly Thine



The Power of Music

Scriptural Reference: 1 Samuel 16:18-23
Patriarchs and Prophets: Chapter 63

- There is no secret that music has power and it moves us. Sometimes, even unawares, we suddenly become conscious that our feet have been tapping to the music, whose type and quality is of such, that were we fully conscious at the start, we would never have given permission to our feet to tap...No! No! No! not to that!
- Music could calm or disturb our souls. It was created by God and some believe that it was designed by God for man to be kept in tune with his Almighty Father. In verse 18 David was admired as one who had been blessed by God. He was a skilful player of the harp and he was recommended to play music for Saul so that the evil spirit, which came upon Saul, could be rebuked. The word of God declares in verse 23 that when the music was played he was refreshed and well and the evil spirit departed.
- Music could be used for healing. David was like a physician to Saul. God was able to use David, through his music, to bring healing to a man plagued with the worst of diseases, and restore him when no one else could. Using the talent given to him by the Almighty, David, a 'nobody', became 'somebody', and was able to be used by God to benefit 'everybody'. The entire kingdom of Israel was once again in capable hands as Saul was no longer under Satan's control.
- Music creates an atmosphere for the right Spirit to dwell and function. Saul was advised to seek the services of a skilful musician, his counsellors hoped that the soothing notes of a sweet instrument might calm his troubled spirit. David was brought before the king and his lofty, heaven-inspired strains had the desired effect: the Holy Spirit was once again able to dwell and influence Saul.

Prayer Focus: Lord, let my choice of music bring healing, peace and most of all Your presence into my space and life.

Suggested Hymns: #88 ~ I Sing The Mighty Power of God
#474 ~ Take The Name of Jesus with You
#476 ~ Burdens are Lifted at Calvary
#516 ~ All The Way
#632 ~ Until Then



Praise in All Seasons

Scriptural Reference: 2 Chronicles 17:6 -10; 20: 1 - 30;

- **Story Backdrop:** In chapter 17 we see Jehoshaphat obeying the Lord and walking in His ways so that God caused the surrounding nations to not make war against him and the nation of Judah. In chapter 20 God loosens His sovereign grip and allows his enemies to rise up so that a combination of armies was marching to wage battle with Jehoshaphat and the army of Judah.
- **Praise when you are afraid or have no idea what to do:** Jehoshaphat was filled with fear and out of ideas. The only thing he could think to do was seek the Lord and worship him with prayer, fasting, praise and have faith that God would deliver them. God told Jehoshaphat to “stand still and see the salvation of the Lord” (2 Chron. 20:17). Before he even witnessed God fighting for them, the king bowed his head in praise and led the nation to worship God (vs. 18).
- **Praise when you have a plan:** Jehoshaphat’s plan was simple...just trust God. He believed in the God with the master plan and started a praise party. The king had everyone worshipping the Lord: the priests were praising; the choir was singing it was endless praises going up. When they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushments and smote their enemies (vs. 22)
- **Praise when you have experienced God’s deliverance:** God worked mightily. He not only destroyed the invading army but He blessed Jehoshaphat and all his people with riches and spoils of war which they had to spend three days gathering up. Verse 28 says that they returned to Jerusalem with another praise session bringing out the band this time with psalteries, harps and trumpets unto the house of the Lord.
- **Praise even though God’s deliverance is delayed:** Acts 16 gives the experience of Paul and Silas who were beaten and thrown into prison. Although they were not protected from the attack of their enemies, they didn’t allow God’s seemingly delayed deliverance to hinder their praise. They worshipped and sang praises while bound in jail and persons were blessed as a result.



- In Job 13:15 Job declared that he would remain faithful to God even unto death. Paul and Silas had no idea if they would be executed but they praised God anyhow. Jehoshaphat praised the Lord before, during and after his experience. The Bible is filled with countless examples of individuals who worshipped, praised and trusted God through various seasons of their experiences: Daniel, David, Moses, Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego just to name a few.

What is your decision tonight: are you going to be a seasonal worshipper and praise God only when things are going the way you like? or will you praise God through every season of your life? Only you can decide...

Prayer Focus: God please help me to maintain my praise through every season of my life and to trust your heart even when I cannot trace your hands.

Suggested Hymns: #1 ~ Praise to The Lord

#279 ~ Only Trust Him

#524 ~ Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

#10 ~ Come, Christians, Join to Sing

#4 ~ Praise My Soul the King of Heaven



A Life of Praise and Worship

Scriptural Reference: Psalm 145

- There is music in the Scriptures. Ps. 145 is the first of the triumphant hymns recorded in the Bible. The 145th Psalm is the only psalm that has in its title the Hebrew word '*Tehillah*' which means 'a praise' or 'song of praise.'
- Praise is a lifestyle. In our Christian walk we should always be in a praising mood. Not just for a time during the day but all day, every day. Our love for God should propel us to make worshipping Him part of our daily routine; not something that is forced but rather imbedded in us, flowing freely, because of our gratitude for the innumerable blessings we receive each day. This psalm, being a triumphant hymn, reflects God's righteousness; goodness and grace towards us and how we reciprocate. Singing is a fitting way to render praise to God and holy hymns are the highest and sweetest strains to assist us in exalting our Creator.
- Praise through your storms; not only on 'good' days. Triumph comes after a test or trial and when we are victorious we should give God the glory and praise. Scripture encourages us to 'rejoice evermore... in everything give thanks...' (1 Thess. 5: 16, 18). This means that even during these trials, we should be worshipping God: praising Him in advance for breakthrough. When we focus on God, the solution to all our problems, instead of on the problem, our entire perspective changes and we would see God working things out even during our difficult times.
- God deserves our worship. He is good, patient, loving, forgiving and He is able and willing to do exceeding, abundantly, above all that we, His children, could ever ask or think. The Lord provides with open arms not only our physical needs but stores of grace for all who seek Him. Do you have something to praise God for? Do not wait, worship Him now in spirit and in truth.

Prayer Focus: God please help me to keep focused on You so that I can offer praise and worship in every aspect of my life.

Suggested Hymns: #73 ~ Holy, Holy, Holy
#83 ~ O Worship the King
#249 ~ Praise Him, praise Him
#334 ~ Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
#462 ~ Blessed Assurance



Music and the Last Days

Scriptural Reference: Daniel 3; Matt. 4:9; Psalm 99:9; Rev. 14:6-12

- Whose voice you listen to determines the focus of your worship e.g. Eden, Plains of Dura. The devil always uses music as a cue to bow. What type of music are you listening to? Who are you worshipping? In the last days the devil will demand our worship. Nebuchadnezzar demanded that the people bow when they heard the sound of the music. Although many worshipped the image (papacy / beast and his image) the three Hebrew boys stood for Jesus (Daniel 3: 10-18).
- The voice could be musical. There is power in worship and the devil knows this. That is why in tempting even Jesus he wanted him to bow down and worship him (Matt. 4:9). Today Satan is luring us into believing that everything is fine with what we listen to. He always has a counterfeit to God's original. Therefore even in the church we need to be careful as to what type of songs and even rhythms we include into our worship because Satan's music is being subtly filtered into our worship. The devil will do anything and everything to get our worship! We are to ensure that our Lord is exalted and worshipped in the beauty of holiness at all times (Psalm 99:9).
- The truth is we will all have to bow to something or someone and the medium to the mind is music. The closing of this world is represented in prophecy. Therefore in the three angels message we are encouraged to bow down and worship the God who made the heavens and the earth only (Rev. 14:6-12). There is coming a time when we will be persecuted and we will be tested but like the three Hebrew boys, we must stand and worship the true and living God and He will in fact deliver us as he promised.

Today who will you worship? Would it be God or the beast? Choose wisely.

Prayer Focus: God please help me that my right choice would begin tonight!

Suggested Hymns: #6 ~ O Worship The Lord
#518 ~ Standing On The Promises
#610 ~ Stand Like the Brave
#617 ~ We are Living, We are Dwelling
#618 ~ Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus



Power of the Trumpet

Scriptural Reference: Psalm 150; Joel 2:1; Eph. 6:11-19

- The trumpet has always played an important role in the life of the Israelites. It was blown to start a new year (Lev. 2) ; to announce the beginning of festivals (Num. 10:10); the law was given with the sound of the trumpet (Ex. 19:19); and John was taken up to the heaven lies by the sound of a trumpet (Rev. 4:1).
- In the Book of Joel the Bible says ‘Blow ye the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in my holy mountain.’ The trumpet blown is mainly for signalling and this can mean different instances based on the sound and situation. What these different sounds mean:
 - *“Te’ki’ah”* - A time to Praise ~ A long blast from the trumpet with one or two notes signified praise, worship. Psalms 150 is a perfect example of this as it a hymn of triumph.
 - *“Sh’va’rim”* - A time to Repent ~ Medium blasts, two notes represented repentance or brokenness as in Psalm 51:3.
 - *“Teruah”* - A time to war or have victory ~ Picture with me a soldier blowing the trumpet for warfare or signalling victory with a short staccato blast (*you can make reference to Ephesians 6:11-19 for application*)
 - Te’ki’ah Ge’do’lah - A time of celebration beyond compare ~ An extra-long single blast. It is the jubilee note extended as long as one could blow it and represents the great last trumpet sound when the Lord returns as King. When we who are saved receive new bodies and thank God for His mercy, goodness and redemption. This will definitely be heard according to 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see...

Prayer Focus: Lord, let the tones of your trumpet draw me in not just to praise, but also to be broken so that my soul will rise in celebration on that great day.

Suggested Hymns: #1 ~ Praise to the Lord

#10 ~ Come Christians Join to Sing

#21 ~ Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise

#309 ~ I Surrender All

#216 ~ When the Roll is Called up Yonder

