



**BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: SAID BY AN OWL TO A SPARROW: “HEY, GOD CARES FOR US TOO.”**

You probably heard last week about the owl that was rescued from the 75-foot Norway Spruce. He was happily roosting in the tree when it was cut down and transported to the Rockefeller Center in New York City. It was an adult male Saw-whet, the smallest variety of owl in the Northeast. He hadn't had food or water in days, but began to recover after getting fluids and food (including mice, his favorite). They named him “Rockefeller.” Jesus said: *“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father”* (Matt. 10:29). We'll hear about other “Sparrows” today from their leader Joanna Pau. Let's worship the God who cares for his creatures with the help of Psalm 95. Then let's sing a famous hymn written by a “bird preacher” named Francis of Assisi. It's called “All Creatures of Our God and King.”



**Psa. 95:1** *Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*

**Psa. 95:2** *Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

**Psa. 95:3** *For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.*

**Psa. 95:4** *In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.*

**Psa. 95:5** *The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.*

**Psa. 95:6** *Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!*



1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of evening, find a voice,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for thy Lord to hear,  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
that givest man both warmth and light,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 And all ye men of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye, alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on him cast your care,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**BETWEEN 9:00 AM-12:00 PM: GOD'S BIRDS SHOULD FLY IN LOYAL FORMATION BEHIND HIM**

The second half of Psalm 95 gives a lesson taken from a sad day in Israel's past. First, Verse 7 reminds us that we're the birds of God's flock. He owns us. Then we're urged to maintain soft, yielding dispositions to the Divine Aviculturist ("*do not harden your hearts*" — V.8). Finally, the Psalmist reminds his readers of an unfortunate event at a desert camping spot called "Rephidim" around 1,500 BC. The short version is that the thirsty Israelites angrily shook their feathers at Moses and the LORD for what appeared to be a lack of water. God, of course, would meet their needs but they were impatient and demanded gratification. Moses answered that they were highhanded and out of line ("*Why do you test the LORD?*" — Ps. 17:2). Then God commanded Moses to grab his staff and walk with the leaders to a particular rock near Horeb. Then he told Moses to hit the rock and water would gush out. Moses obeyed and so did the mysterious water. The people drank the sweet drink but their disrespect and distrust left a bitter taste in God's mouth. No one has the right to insist upon an immediate show of God's capabilities. He had already given them an abundance of evidence that he had their future and blessing firmly in hand. Think about how God has proved himself to you over many years. As you read the Psalm below, think about an event from each decade of your life where he has demonstrated his ability to direct and provide for you.

- Psa. 95:7**      *For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.  
Today, if you hear his voice,*
- Psa. 95:8**      *do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,*
- Psa. 95:9**      *when your fathers put me to the test  
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.*
- Psa. 95:10**     *For forty years I loathed that generation  
and said, "They are a people who go astray in their  
heart, and they have not known my ways."*
- Psa. 95:11**     *Therefore I swore in my wrath,  
"They shall not enter my rest."*

**In Rephidim, 1500 BC**



1,000 years after the Psalmist wrote Psalm 95, the writer to the Hebrews quoted Psalm 95: 7-11 and urged the believers living in Rome to do a spiritual health checkup. He wrote:

**Heb. 3:12** *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*

**Heb. 3:13** *But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

**Heb. 3:14** *For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*

**Heb. 3:15** *As it is said,  
"Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*

**In Rome, 1,500 years later, in 70 AD**



How does this passage speak to you? Notice V.13. Do you need to speak tenderly to someone ("*exhort*" him/her) who is getting a little rough around the edges of the heart?



**BETWEEN 12:00 PM-3:00 PM: THE SPIRIT'S MESSAGE TO US IS THE SAME**

Today, 11/25/20, another 1,000 years after the author of Hebrews wrote to the house churches in Rome, and 2,000 years after the Psalmist wrote about the desert generation of Israelites who had lived 1,500 before that, we too hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. His message is the same: "Don't be stony hearted, blockheaded and resistant to God. Let's ask boldly for help but not make demands on him for evidence of his involvement with us. Recognize that he'll bring resources (water, food, protection, wisdom, funding, housing, employment from his invisible storehouse) in his good time. And if he doesn't, and we die, it means he wanted to protect us from worse evil and bring us even closer to himself (Is. 57:1). Maybe, just maybe, he's testing our loyalty. He has that right.

However, many of us are a long way from death's door from the standpoint of basic life essentials. We've haven't yet died of thirst. We haven't yet been put to the sword. We haven't had our homes confiscated. So any divine silence might be a trust test. Will we wait patiently with a song on our lips or will we rant and rave? Again, let your love and fidelity be proven today, because today is all we have. Again, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your heart."

Talk to the Lord about these truths. I, Darren, am having to confess and backtrack on my own gripy-ness about the circumstances we're facing. Let's acknowledge any bitterness and then put it behind our backs, now that he's put it behind his own.

**Psa. 103:12** *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

**In Cupertino, 2,000 year later, on  
11/25/20**



**BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.**



**JOANNA PAU** [She'll share about a special ministry called "Sparrows."]

**KURT JONES** [He'll share an ancient Psalm of thanks and share a thought or two as the Spirit leads him.]

**Psa. 136:1** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Psa. 136:2** Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Psa. 136:3** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:4** to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:5** to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:6** to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:7** to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:8** the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:9** the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:10** to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:11** and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:12** with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:13** to him who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:14** and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:15** but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:16** to him who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:17** to him who struck down great kings, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:18** and killed mighty kings, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:19** Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:20** and Og, king of Bashan, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:21** and gave their land as a heritage, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:22** a heritage to Israel his servant, for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Psa. 136:23** It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:24** and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Psa. 136:25** he who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Psa. 136:26** Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.



**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (7 min.): Psalm 41:1** *Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;*

We were blessed to hear from Joanna Pau about Sparrows. Please lift her up, asking God to increase the reach of her ministry by bringing in more servants to help. Pray for God's blessing on all of the Sparrows. (Silently consider whether this is a ministry that God is leading you to join.)

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (7 min.): Psa. 34:2** *I will glory [or boast] in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.*

Tell the Lord how you feel about him and why. He owns everything except our sincere gratitude which he can't compel us to give him. Cast up your hands, cast up words of credit to the Lord.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (7 min.): 1 Peter 5:7** *casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

2020 is winding down but our health, political and church needs are only winding up. Throw up to heaven your cares, requests, questions, petitions and whatever else is weighing on your heart. Rev. 5:8 says that our prayers have a sweet smell to God.

**BETWEEN 5:00 PM-10:00 PM: PRAY ABOUT JUMPING INTO ACTION WITH VALLEY CHURCH'S "JUST LOVE AS 1" TEAM.**

**What?** Our Justice Action Team (now called "Just Love as 1") will be supporting Maranatha Church's Toy Donation Sorting Project. We'll sort toys so they can be given to community members.

**When?** Monday, Nov. 30 (time TBD based on team availability)

**Where?** Maranatha Christian Center at 1811 S 7th St A, San Jose, CA 95112.

**How to sign up?** Click on this [TOY DONATION SORTING REGISTRATION](#) to pick your time slot.

**More questions?** Contact Audrey Young at [audreytyoung@gmail.com](mailto:audreytyoung@gmail.com)

