

# GOD IS ENOUGH

WORSHIP FOR GEORGE WHITEFIELD UMC  
JANUARY 30, 2022

Good morning!

I thank Heidi for providing us the inspirational worship for today!

## Order of Worship

Call to Worship

Scripture

Message

Song- "Hymn of Promise" #707

Prayer

Benediction



## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God has called us to share the good news of God's love.

**P: But who am I, that God should call me?**

L: You are a beloved child of God.

**P: But I am weak I'm not a great speaker or preacher.**

L: God is with you; don't be afraid.

**P: Lord, help me to trust in your presence with me. Help me to serve you. AMEN**

Adapted from: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3546/worship-connection-january-30-2022>

## SCRIPTURE - PSALM 96:11-13

11 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. 12 Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. 13 Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

**Opening Prayer:** Oh God, your creation echoes your Word. You have provided your Word and also daily reflections of those truths in our daily lives. Help us to see You in all circumstances and embrace the potential for all of our experiences to bring us closer to You. Open our eyes and ears to all You have to say to us we pray. Let no barrier exist that dims that vision or muffles that sound. Thank you for meeting us where we are with lessons in the language of love. Amen.

## A Perspective on this Season of Darkness

by Heidi Jeldres

*“A seasoned saint was asked by a despairing Christian, “Doesn’t the world look to you like a wreck?”, “Yes” was the cheerful and confident reply, “like the wreck of a bursting seed.” Any of us who have watched the first sproutings of an oak tree from the heart of a decaying acorn will understand what this means. Before the acorn can bring forth the oak it must become a wreck. No plant ever came from any but a wrecked seed.”*

*“The Lord uses this fact to teach us the meaning of His processes with us, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit” John 12:24*

*The explanation of the apparent wreckage of the world at large and of our own personal lives in particular is here set forth. Looked at in this light, we can understand how it is that the Lord can be good yet permit the existence of sorrow and wrong in the world He has created and in the lives of the human beings He loves.*

*It is God’s very goodness that compels Him to permit sorrow and wrong. He knows that only through such apparent wreckage can his glorious purposes for us be brought to pass. And we whose hearts also long for that fruition, will, if we understand His ways, be able to praise Him for all His goodness even when things seem hardest and most mysterious.”*

From the book “God is Enough” by Hannah Whitall Smith



So, do not lament this time of darkness, but see it with eyes of faith that our God will use it in a process of metamorphosis. Unless the seed goes through this stage of transition in darkness when the power of water cracks open it’s shell to sprout, and unless water and the sun help it to grow to it’s next level and then with provision of water, sun and nutrients causes it to mature and then produce fruit, the purpose of the seed will never be fulfilled. It will only be a hard dry kernel. Likewise, hearts hardened by pain, by fear, by doubt, by self-reliance, or even self-protection need to be exposed to the elements that can lead to fulfillment of their purpose, of which we know little.

Think of the caterpillar, driven to seal itself up in a cocoon without a sense of what is to come, surrendering to what must seem like death, only to emerge as the butterfly it was meant to be. There are parables of transformation and life all around us, echoes in nature of those told by Jesus himself as to the character and intentions of God.

So, do not lament difficulty, but marvel in God’s ways which are beyond our understanding and which were set in motion from the beginning. Trust the promise of resurrection in small and large matters. In our small lives we are apt to have a very narrow view, but God has the wide-angle perspective of all time and all conditions and we cannot outreason Him. Keep your focus on He who is able and let’s see what comes to be.

## LET'S SING TOGETHER THE "HYMN OF PROMISE", #707 IN YOUR HYMNAL (PRINTED HERE)

In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree  
In cocoons a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me  
From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In the end is our beginning, in our time infinity  
In our doubt there is believing, in our life eternity  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

### Let us pray...

*Dear Heavenly Father, help us to trust even through uncertainty. Show us the lessons of love all around us that steady our uneasiness and fortify our confidence. Our earthly lives are filled with highs and lows, some gentle slopes, some steep and deep, but despite the uneven terrain, You steadily lead us forward, if only we will keep our eyes on You. Thank you for your unfailing love. Forgive us for looking elsewhere for comfort and relief when you are the true source of all we need. We seek to follow in the Way Jesus has shown us, and to rejoice even in affliction as the Apostle Paul has demonstrated and preached. Let us be open to the lessons and insights you put in our way and remind us daily of your plans for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

### **Benediction:**

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**2 Corinthians 13:14**

