

Opening song: U2's I still haven't found what I'm looking for

I have climbed the highest mountains
I have run through the fields
Only to be with you, only to be with you

I have run I have crawled
I have scaled these city walls
These city walls Only to be with you

But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for
But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for

I have kissed honey lips
Felt the healing in the fingertips
It burned like fire This burning desire

I have spoke with the tongue of angels
I have held the hand of a devil
It was warm in the night I was cold as a stone

*But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for
But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for*

I believe in the Kingdom come
Then all the colours will bleed into one
Bleed into one but yes, I'm still running

You broke the bonds
and you loosened chains
carried the cross of my shame, of my shame
You know I believe it

*But I still haven't found
What I'm looking for....*

Welcome

There is a mother's heart in the heart of God.
~ Hebridean saying

Call to worship

Psalm 24 (VU)

The earth is God's, and all that is in it;
the world, and those who live upon it.
For God founded it upon the seas,
planted it firm over the waters beneath.

Who may ascend the mountain of God?
Who may stand in God's holy place?
Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not set their minds on deceit,
nor made false promises;

they shall receive God's blessing,
righteousness from the God who will save them.
Such are those who seek God,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, you gates!
Lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors,
that the One who rules in glory may enter.

Who rules in glory?
It is God, valiant and strong,
God, who is mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates!
Lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors,
that the One who rules in glory may enter.

Who rules in glory?
It is God of hosts,
God who rules in glory.

Family of God, from whom does our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

Hymn: Morning has broken

(VU 409)

1

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Opening prayer & Lord's Prayer song

A time for all God's children

Hymn: All God's critters

(Bill Staines, Key of G)

*All God's critters gotta place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands,
or paws or anything they got now*

1

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to do
And old cow just goes 'moo'

2

Well the dogs and the cats they take up the middle
Where the honeybee hums and the crickets fiddle
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The old coyote howls

3

Listen to the top where the little bird sings
On the melody with the high note ringing
The hoot owl hoots over everything
And the blue jay disagrees

4

It's a simple song of livin' that's sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove.

Scripture: 1 Peter 3: 13-22

(English Standard Version)

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?
But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.
Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,
but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone
who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;
yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned,
those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ
may be put to shame.

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will,
than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous,
in order to bring you to God.

He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
who in former times did not obey,
when God waited patiently in the days of Noah,
during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is,
eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—
not as a removal of dirt from the body,
but as an appeal to God for a good conscience,

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hymn: Higher ground

1

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound, " Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

2

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where those abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

3

I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

4

I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,
" Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Sermon

Prayers of the people

(VU 400)

Refrain

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Benediction

As the rain hides the stars,
as the autumn mist hides the hills,
as the clouds veil the blue of the sky,
so the dark happenings of our lives hide the shining of thy face from us.
Yet, if we may hold thy hand in the darkness, it is enough.
Since we know that,
though we may stumble in our going,
thou dost not fall.

Traditional Gaelic

Hymn: How can I keep from singing (VU716)

1

My life flows on in endless song,
 above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
 that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
 I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul -
 how can I keep from singing?

2

What though my joys and comforts die?
 My saviour still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round?
 A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm,
 while to that rock I'm clinging:
since Love commands both heaven and earth,
 how can I keep from singing?

3

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
 and hear their death knells ringing:
when friends rejoice both far and near,
 how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile
 our thoughts to them are winging:
when friends by shame are undefiled,
 how can I keep from singing?

4

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;

I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths,
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's -
how can I keep from singing?