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April 18, 2021

“EAST TO WEST”

[Verse 1]

Here I am lord and I'm drowning
In your sea of forgetfulness.
The chains of yesterday surround me
I yearn for peace and rest
I don't want to end up where you found me
And it echoes in my mind
Keeps me awake tonight

[Verse 2]

I know you've cast my sin as far
As the east is from the west
And I stand before you now
As though I've never sinned
But today I feel like I'm just one mistake away
From you leaving me this way

[Chorus 1]

Jesus, can you show me
Just how far the east is from the west?
Cause I can't bear to see the man I've been
Rising up in me again
In the arms of your mercy I find rest
You know just how far the east is from the west
From one scarred hand to the other

[Verse 3]

I start the day, the war begins
Endless reminding of my sin
And time and time again
Your truth is drowned out by the storm I'm in
Today I feel like I'm just one mistake away
From you leaving me this way

[Chorus 1]

[Bridge]

I know you've washed me white
Turned my darkness into light
I need your peace to get me through—
To get me through this night
I can't live by what I feel
About the truth your word reveals
And I'm not holding onto you
But you're holding onto me—
You're holding onto me

[Chorus 2]

Jesus, you know
Just how far the east is from the west
And I don't have to see the man I've been
Come rising up in me again
In the arms of your mercy I find rest
Cause you know just how far
the east is from the west
From one scarred hand to the other

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CONFESSION OF SINS

Worship Leader: Satan is maliciously creative as he tries to deceive us and lead us to sin. Consider the Garden of Eden. “Did God really say...” —he takes God’s own words and twists them into a different perspective, one which God did not intend. This carried on after Adam and Eve fell into sin; they started passing the blame to God. “The serpent deceived me, and I ate!” Satan twisted and warped the truth; and by doing so, also their minds. “The woman YOU put here with me gave it to me and I ate!” Adam and Eve became bitter and began seeing God as the enemy and putting distance between each other—likely they both felt alone. Satan still twists the truth, twists our perception and when we feel alone, he misleads us away from God and directs us to sin.

So now we come before our merciful, heavenly Father and confess where we have strayed, where we have done wrong—our sins. Yet not to further the feeling of separation, but to be reconciled to him, through him, by his Son. We are not alone in our sin, he tells us, “I am. I am for you, in you, among you” (*Exodus 3:14ff*). Let us confess:

Congregation: Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you in more ways than I can count. I have sinned in my thoughts, by my words and with my actions. There are sins I know I have done and sins that I do not know I have done. Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Call me from the darkness into your wonderful light. Assure me of your love for me, cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

WL: God, our Heavenly Father, is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in faithful love. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are righteous in God’s sight and named as an heir of heaven. May the God of hope fill you with the peace and joy that comes only through his forgiveness. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob, he
who formed you, Israel:

*“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
² When you pass through the waters, I will be*

*with you; and when you pass through
the rivers, they will not sweep over you.*

*When you walk through the fire, you will not
be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.
³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One
of Israel, your Savior.”*

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father,
¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and
on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out
of his glorious riches he may strengthen you
with power through his Spirit in your inner
being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in
your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and
established in love, ¹⁸ may have power,
together with all the Lord's holy people,
to grasp how wide and long and high and

deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know
this love that surpasses knowledge—that
you may be filled to the measure of
all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably
more than all we ask or imagine, according
to his power that is at work within us,
²¹ to him be glory in the church and in
Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
for ever and ever! Amen.

"YOU NEVER LET GO"

[Verse 1]

Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
Even when I'm caught in the middle
Of the storms of this life
I won't turn back I know You are near

[Bridge]

And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear
Whom then shall I fear

[Chorus]

Oh, no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh, no You never let go
In every high and every low
Oh, no You never let go
Lord, You never let go of me

[Verse 2]

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart
that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end
to these troubles
But until that day comes
We'll live to know You here on the earth

[Bridge]

And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear
Whom then shall I fear

[Chorus] x2

Oh, no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh, no You never let go
In every high and every low
Oh, no You never let go
Lord, You never let go of me

BECAUSE JESUS LIVES:
I AM NOT ALONE
based on Matthew 28:20b

MATTHEW 28:20b

“Surely I am with you always.”

PRAYER

Following the prayer:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

"BY YOUR SIDE"

[Verse]

Why are you striving these days?
Why are you trying to earn grace?
Why are you crying?
Let me lift up your face,
Just don't turn away

[Verse 2]

Why are you looking for love?
Why are you still searching,
As if I'm not enough?
To where will you go child?
Tell me where will you run,
To where will you run?

[Chorus 1]

Cause I'll be by your side wherever you fall
In the dead of night whenever you call
And please don't fight
These hands that are holding you
My hands are holding you

[Verse 3]

Look at these hands at my side
They swallowed the grave on that night
When I drank the world's sin

So I could carry you in and give you life
I wanna give you life

[Chorus 2]

Cause I'll be by your side wherever you fall
In the dead of night whenever you call
And please don't fight
These hands that are holding you
My hands are holding—

Here at my side wherever you fall
In the dead of night whenever you call
And please don't fight
These hands that are holding you
My hands are holding you

[Bridge]

Cause I---, I love you,
And I want you to know
That I---, I love you,
And I'll never let you go

[Chorus 2]

Here at my side,
my hands are holding you.

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WANT TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE MUSIC?

This playlist contains nearly every one of the songs that we use for contemporary worship over the year:

**Also, feel free to send song suggestions or recommendations to Staff Minister Kyle Heise 😊.*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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