Well, I am so delighted to see how many people hung on through this long day. We certainly had a long day, a really good day. Again, we spent this time again singing, preaching, eating, hearing testimonies, and fellowshipping together and celebrating what the Lord has done in His grace here at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

And it is amazing when you look at the Lord Jesus Christ, isn't it? Even as we mentioned just in passing this morning that here He is, God in human flesh, and He comes again amongst us. And here is perfect holiness. Just think about it, perfect holiness in human flesh. So often we talk about the temptations of the Lord Jesus.

And I think, again, in those temptations, it's not so much a pull to do sin as it is a repugnance of the sin, can you imagine how repugnant, how awful, how ugly sin looks to him? You know, you look at human pride and how repugnant, how also repulsive it must have been to our Lord when he realized the Father deserves again all glory. You know, can you imagine again how awful, how ugly, how disgusting even infidelity looked? when he recognized that satisfaction, true joy, is found in the presence of our great God.

And to realize, in all of this, these individuals that happened to begin before him, he was coming to give his life as a perfect ransom for sin. And he came volitionally. He came of his own accord. He came, again, delighting that he could do this for you and me. Even though, again, if we died, if we perished, and we spent 1,000 lifetimes in the Lake of Fire, we could never pay for our debt.

You know, and when you think of those truths, when you think of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, how does it make you feel? You know, what goes through your soul? You know, what do you think about? You know, when you hear that, because I haven't said anything that none of you already do not know.

And here's the truth. We realize this, and I hope we realize this, but whatever's inside of us, again, begs to come out of us, doesn't it? You know, it begs to come out of us. You know, whatever, again, is truly in us. It's just like, again, a new dad.

A new dad takes his little girl in his arms. He looks at that little girl, and he invites everybody else. Honey, you want to see beauty? You want to see beauty? You know, they show pictures. You know, mom shows a picture and squishes the little baby's face like that. Have you ever seen anything more adorable than this? You know, and, well, it's a beg. It begs to come out.

In fact, again, if it does not come out in that exuberance, it really does not, again, do justice to the goodness, to the grace that happens to be, again, of God. And remember this principle. Whatever happens to be in our hearts, whatever happens to be, again, really senses, again, a sense of glory in us, begs to get out. Doesn't it? You know, when we're going through mourning, when we're going through sorrow, when we're going through the depths of despair, that's why a good cry many times feels so therapeutic. Why? Because what comes out, again, has to come out of us. It just feels right.

We realize that even when we're driving, I don't know about you, you know, it's the middle of summer, the windows are open, you know, and you have a CD on or you have a Christian radio, and that song comes on. And you know what song I'm talking about, right? And you can't just listen to it, right? Well, what do you have to do? You have to raise your voice. You don't care if the car next door to you hears it. You just have to.

And why? Because it just feels right. Whatever is inside of you comes out. It's why on a roller coaster, people put up their hands and they go, ah, anywhere else in life. And that's looked upon, again, as absolute, whoa, look at that person. But it

just feels right. And whatever's inside of us, again, has to come out.

And the reason why I bring that up is because one of the great elements in church history and through the Word of God, one of the great elements of worshiping our great God is singing. You know, what's in us as believers begs to come out, you know, begs to passionately, again, announce the greatness of our God, the greatness of our salvation in Jesus Christ, doesn't it? You know that? Let me just say this, singing has gone through what I would say a a turbulent time in the history of the church because most people, again, some people just don't like to sing. I'm not going to sing. I don't care again what's inside of me. I don't care. I'm just not going to sing. I'm just not going to announce these truths.

Some people look at it as basically corny, old-fashioned, nerdy. And let me just, I am so glad I am corny, I am so glad I am old-fashioned, and I am so glad that I am a big, big nerd, because I love to sing. You know, I just love to sing. Now, we realize that singing is commanded in the Word of God, so many churches have tried to take a middle approach and basically have somebody up front or a group or a band that happens to be getting up front. and they basically play. They basically sing for everyone else. And they make it impossible to sing because they have these long runs that go up and down and up and down. No, no way. Even if we wanted to sing, we could do it. Either that or they are so loud, you cannot even hear yourself singing, let alone the person that happens to be before you. And we realize that.

You know, and there's some churches, and I realize there's some churches that sing, and what they're doing is after some emotional element that happens to begin again in them, devoid of truth, and they'll sing the same phrase over and over and over and over again. And there's really no worship of God because it's all about us. And you can hear people many times because they can say something like this, boy, did we ever worship today? And they really have not God, not Christ, not his great redemption in mind. And then there's some churches that realize they have to sing, and they just go through the motions. It's just so silent. It's just so, again, melancholy, that you wouldn't think that we have anything to celebrate.

And I wonder, as we look at ourselves as individuals, as we look at ourselves in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, let me ask this question. How is your singing? You know, how do you sing before this great God that happens to be above? Is there anything that you see in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to celebrate? You know, I love Fanny Crosby. Somebody, I think it was Richard that brought up Fanny Crosby again today. One of her most famous hymns happened to be, again, Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it.

And listen to the third stanza, it goes this way. I think of my blessed Redeemer. How often do I think of him? I think of him all the day long, and look what comes out of that thinking. I sing, why? For I cannot be silent. His love, that love that we looked at this morning, his love is the theme of my song. And then the chorus goes like this, and think of how great these truths are. Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed by what? The blood of the lamb. Redeemed, redeemed, listen to what it is. His child. Forever I am.

You know, and as we celebrate the history of church, as we celebrate, again, this worship to this great God who came in human flesh to die for us as sinners, how's our singing? Because I really think it's a contradiction in terms to be an unsinging church. You know, to really not want to boisterously announce these great truths that happen at the beginning of the Lord Jesus Christ. So I want to say a couple points.

It's 2.04 by then. I'm going to try and be done. And this is no promise, so don't look at your watch. I'm going to try and be done in 15 minutes, because I know you're tired. I get it, I get it. I'm tired, but I'm enthusiastic too. And I just

want to see a couple points. And one is, I want us to realize this, and we do realize this, but sometimes the obvious needs to be stated.

We have something to sing about, don't we? We have someone to sing about. Someone who's worthy of song. I mean, look at the opening two verses of this psalm in Psalm chapter nine. He says, I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you. I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

You know, what I think one of the lost arts in Christianity happens to be, because we live such busy lives, we live in busy communities, everything seems to be going on. And I think, again, one of the lost arts that happen to be in Christianity is just basically this, it's reflection. You know, how often, again, because there's always something to do, there's always something to read, there's always something accomplished in our life, how often do we just sit in the silence of everything that happens to begin around us? We block out the politics, we block out all the difficulties that are going on around us, and we just think about God.

We think about his grace in our life. We think again of how mighty and how glorious it is. I mean, think of it. This God had us in mind before there was a you and me. This God had us in mind before there was even a creation, way back before there was nothing. He thought about you and I. He thought about, again, redeeming us.

Again, this plan, again, for specific individuals. And he knew, again, how much I would mess up over and over and over again. And just as we looked at this morning, he was zealous, he was intense in his love for a sinner like me. He chose and called and called us. And our lives, folks, are one long testimony of this.

The faithfulness, not of us, but the faithfulness of our God. And I think, again, one of the problems when it comes to singing, one of the reasons why we are just not more amazed and have that spirit that comes out of us is we just do not reflect on the goodness, the grace of this great God that happens to be with us.

Because this is the great songwriter of the Old Testament, isn't it? David, and we see in verse number one, he says, I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. I will count all of his wonderful deeds. This is, again, a psalm of David, the great shepherd king, and it's intentional, isn't it? He says, I will, I will, and then in the second verse, he says, I will, and I will.

It's very intentional. And he speaks again of this gratitude that's coming out of him, and he speaks of it with his whole heart. In other words, he's just not going through the motions. He's just naming some things, you know, that happen to be off cuff. But it's the whole heart. That means it's the mind, right? That means the thinking. That means the emotions are all gathered up in this praise. And that means the will.

The entirety of his being in the inside is taken up with this, God's wonderful deeds that he's done in each one of our lives. And folks, it's not just in the positive blessings that happen to be in our life. Well, this good thing happened, this good thing, this good, this good, this good. But even in the trials that happen to be in our life, When we sit quietly, when we reflect on the promises of God, when we see that this God has brought us through the fire and he's not let us go, when we see how that fire has refined us to love him more, all we can do is count our blessings. one by one, right?

And we name them, specifically name them, what the Lord has done in our lives. And I want us to look at verse number two. Before we look at verse number two, I know you're tired, so I'm going to tell you a story, and hopefully that will keep you awake, okay? You know, I can remember way back in 1972, It's a long time ago. They

had what was known as, and many of you again will recognize this, they had what was called the Summit Series. And the Summit Series was basically Canada against what was known back then as USSR, or Russia.

And the Russians used to always go to the Olympics, and it was only amateur athletes back then. And so the Russians would always go to the Olympics and they would annihilate everyone. Everyone was wondering because it was only amateur athletes and these individuals were all in the Soviet Army at that time.

But they were really, really good as far as on that amateur level. And this is the first time the best in Canada played, again, the best to have in the beginning of the USSR. And it was supposed to be a wipeout. Canada was the best hockey nation in the world. We had the professionals. We had the NHL. And they came together.

And I think the first game, if I recall rightly, and if I don't recall rightly, you can tell me afterwards, happened to be in Montreal. You know, and as they started out the game, you know, they were talking, you know, that Canada's going to rout them and all, and I think it was in the first minute or two, Canada scored. And I can remember the announcer coming on saying, oh, there's going to be more of that coming.

And then all of a sudden, Russian goal after Russian goal after Russian goal and Russian goal. And Russia had this goalie named Tretiak. And it seemed like nothing got past him. And all of a sudden, we might not be the greatest hockey nation that happened to begin in the world.

And here's the thing. They had four games in Canada, four games in Russia. And there's no overtime. So they tied at the end of regulation. That's what it is. So after seven games, get this. You're playing in Russia at this time. After seven games, it's all tied up. And during these seven games, it's incredible because it became more than hockey.

It became, again, a struggle for a way of life. It became, again, the free world against the communism that happened to begin over here. It became, again, about democracy against, again, this dictatorial rule that happened to be right here. It was bigger than life. They would show pictures on the news, video of the news of grocery stores, and all the aisles were empty. They showed these major thoroughfares through these Canadian cities, and nobody was on them during the hockey game.

Everybody was glued to a screen. Even when we were in school, because it's in Russia, it's at night in Russia, but it's the daytime during the year, they would wheel in, I don't know if you... These old black and white TVs, you know the ones, boom, boom, boom, boom. They had rabbit ears and they would twist them around and try and get a picture and it was all snowy. But we used to watch it. We used to watch these games. Every class, we used to watch it. It was bigger than life.

They came down to the last game and the last game was tied. They came in the third period and Canada was down by two goals. I can remember, you know, at the end of the second period, I was so upset, I had to go for a walk outside saying, whoa, whoa, whoa. And all of a sudden, Canada scored one goal. And in the last, I would say about five minutes, less than that, they scored the tying goal.

You know, and there was so much tension that happened to be right there. And then all of a sudden, you know, Paul Henderson's on the bench and he's just screaming at this guy, get off, get off. Get off! Get off!" And the guy jumps over. Paul Henderson jumps on, and he's just like a wild man. He goes after that puck, and he just swings at it, and it goes in the net.

And I can remember, because I was lying on a little cushion, one of those little ottomans that happen to begin right there. And I was lying there, my knees were on the ground like this. And I can remember just jumping up, going, yay, yay, yay. And all of a sudden, I felt this arm around me, jumping up and down. And it was my dad. My dad had me here. He had my brother here. And he was just jumping up and down, jumping up and down. And we were cheering, yay, yay, yay.

And then the last couple minutes played out. And you know what everybody did? We lived in row housing. You know what everybody did? They went outside. And everybody's jumping up and down. Everybody's cheering. They showed it on the news. And all of a sudden, in every village, every town, every city, there was these makeshift parades. People were driving. They were waving flags. They were on pickups, on the back of pickups. And they were jumping up and down. And I cannot think. of a better time of national pride, of national joy. I can't think of, again, a time of greater national joy than at the end of the Summit Series.

And why do I say all of that? Because, folks, we have something better. We have something more glorious. We have none other than the gospel, again, of grace. And here is David, and David's thinking about all the wonderful works of God, all the grace of God that has been shown him. And listen to what he says in verse number two. He says, I will be glad and exalt in you. I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. And the idea, again, of glad and exalt really don't bring it out in our English language.

But there's an exuberance, right? It's coming out of David. And how's it coming out of David? It's coming out singing. You know, this is so joyous. The only thing I could do is sing. You know, it's almost like those European soccer games. If you've ever seen those European soccer games, when the home team scores, again, everybody's bouncing up and down, singing again a song, right? There's exuberance to having to be here. This is David right here.

And if David, again, is writing a psalm, again, a song of lament, there's emotion that happens to be kicked in about their God, about trusting him. If he's thanking him for the good things that happen to be in his life, for the grace that happens to be in his life, for the forgiveness of what happens to be in life, there's this exuberance.

And folks, think about that. Because the last 2,000 years, in fact, the last 74 years of Immanuel Baptist Church, Jesus Christ has been building his church. I mean, we're here as a testimony of that. Here he is, he comes again 2,000 years ago, gives his life as a perfect ransom for sin, and he's still calling sinners, people like you and me, to salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. Here's the thing. Crosby recognizes, folks, we have something to sing about. How can we ever be silent? And please don't get this wrong. This is not dead orthodoxy. This is not, OK, we've got to sing. Let's sing these songs.

Let's get by them so we can get to the most important things, which happen to be the preaching of God's Word. And praise God, that's the major part of our service, major part of our worship, happens to be the preaching of the Word of God. But this is not a dead emotionalism, and it's not a dead orthodoxy either. It's like Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, and it's captured by David in this verse, but Jesus says this in John chapter four, verse number 23. He says, but the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father. Here it is, small s. Small s, it's not talking about the Holy Spirit. In spirit, right, here it is, in us, and in truth, right?

It's not dead, it's not just empty emotionalism, but there's a truth of what this God through Jesus Christ. has done for sinners like us. And you can see that, and so think of it, again, because we have somebody, we have something worthy of

worship to sing about. Just be amazed at, and how is our singing? And let me just bring out one other thing, and this is my second point, and then I'll be done. Oh, OK. But we sing. We sing in the church. In other words, we sing together. We sing in a congregation. Look at these two verses again. He says, I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. I will count all of the wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you. I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

And David's singular focus is on God. In other words, again, he's singing, and we are singing, to an audience of one to the praise, to the glory of his grace that happens to be above. But listen to the inspired inscription over this verse number one, which is also inspired text of scripture. Because it says this, to the choir master, according to Muthleben, a Psalm of David. And when he says to the choir master, this is what he's saying, this Psalm is meant to be sung in the congregation again of Israel. It's to announce his wonderful deeds, to think about his wonderful deeds that he's done to the nation, and the wonderful deeds that he has done to one another. And it is incredible, isn't it?

Because we realize that we are commanded to sing, commanded in obedience to God to sing in our inexpressible joy of Him and what He has done for sinners like us, because our God is truly an awesome God. We're probably all familiar with Ephesians chapter 5 and verses 18 and following, it says this, and do not get drunk with wine. for that is debauchery. But this is what we're to be filled with, this is what we're to be controlled with, but be filled with the Spirit. And when we're controlled by the Spirit, we're full again of what the Spirit has produced, which happens to be, again, the Word of God. We're full of those truths that happen to begin therein.

And this is what comes out of us, addressing one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to who? To the Lord, with what? With your heart, giving thanks always for everything to God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we're addressing one another in these spiritual truths. And think about it, folks, because again, do we have something to sing about? And we do have something to sing about. We sing about how great is our God.

We sing because we are almost home. We sing because our soul pants for God, the living God. We sing because He will hold us fast. We sing because He is our hope in life and death. We sing because of this amazing grace. We sing because we want God to draw me ever near. We sing because it is well with my soul. We sing because there really is victory in Jesus. We sing because we are complete in Him. We sing because how marvelous, how wonderful is my Savior's love for me. We sing because I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom. We sing because He is the almighty, unchangeable God. We sing because I will glory in my Redeemer. We sing because This is the power of the cross. Christ became sin for us.

Folks, do you think we have something to think about? Do you really think we have something to celebrate in this great Christ? So think of the reasons why you think. And the main reason, again, happens to be He's worthy. Look at my God, look at what He's done. But in this text of Scripture, we have to realize there's three other reasons. One is, again, we sing corporately. And why? Because we put our arms around our brothers and sisters metaphorically. But we sing that we hold these truths in common. This is our God. This is our theology. This is what Christ has done for the body of Christ. So we're professing to one another. This is where our hope is, folks.

But not only that, we sing to those who are not saved. I often think, you know, if somebody came into our congregation and heard our singing, they would think it was the oddest thing that happened to begin in the world, especially when it's sung out enthusiastically. You know, because think of what we're singing, and let's just take one hymn, Almost Home. What do you think Almost Home is about?

Right, it's not about this, you know, I've been on a business trip, you know, and I'm really tired, and I've got 30 minutes before I finally get home. It's not talking about a geographical location. You know, it's talking about to save the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are going to be, we are going to come to that place where our lives are terminated, our earthly lives in the here and now.

You know, I was talking to my neighbor yesterday, you know, and he was telling me that he just had a birthday. And I said, oh, how old are you? And he said, I don't count them anymore. And I said, why don't you count him anymore? He says, because there's a reminder that in one year, closer to death. And for him, again, it happened to be the loss of everything.

But for us folks, almost home. Why is it so great? Why would we sing it? Think about how upbeat that song is. Almost home. Why is it such good news? And it's good news, folks, because of the one we meet on the other side of death. None other than the Lord, none other than the Savior.

And we sing to the world that we have something so much more substantial, so much more glorious to rejoice in, none other than what our God has done for us. And we sing. We sing again with other believers in the congregation of Christ. We sing for the unbeliever as a witness to them. And we sing. And I want you to realize it, because I think this is the one that we forget about so often. We sing for those who can't sing. And I'm not talking about that they don't have any vocal cords. I'm not talking about, again, even though it might not be pretty, that they can open up their mouth and they can hum, they can sing a tune. I'm not talking about that. But I'm talking about, again, some people come out, some believers come out.

They come out, again, basically out of out of obligation because there's so many problems that happen to be in their life, there's so many sins that happen to be in their life, and they just do not want to put sin upon sin by not coming out. They know this is the place they ought to be, but they're so burdened, they're so burdened with their failures, they're so burdened again by all the things that happen to be going on in their life, and they come and they sit there. Either that or somebody comes out and maybe they've had somebody that has done some wicked thing that happened to be against them and it's wounded them at the deepest core of their soul.

Either that or somebody that we've loved in this world has departed this world and we can feel that separation. We long again for that union once again and we can feel it. All of a sudden the music is playing and we just can't bring ourselves to sing because we're so heartbroken. Have you ever known anybody like that? You know, I've been up here singing, you know, as Richard has led, or as Abe has led, and I look down at the congregation, and there are certain members at a certain time in our congregation that are just weeping.

And they're weeping because they can't sing, but it's just like these truths when God's people sing enthusiastically about our great God. It's just like a wave comes over them, a refreshing wave that announces, this is where my hope is. It's in Christ. You know, it's like the song we love to sing, you know, hallelujah, all I have is Christ.

It goes like this, I once was lost in darkest night and thought I knew the way. The sin, we even heard this in the testimonies, right? The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave. I had no hope that you would own a rebel to your will. And then he says this, and if you had not loved me first, I would refuse you still.

And the course goes like this, hallelujah. Guess what? All I have is Christ.

Hallelujah. Jesus is my life. Folks, we sing. We sing enthusiastically. We sing out of the depths of our hearts. For those who can't sing, they need to hear this gospel again once again. And I don't know if you like singing, but this is good news to me. Guess what?

There's going to be singing in heaven. There's gonna be again rejoicing and praising our great God that happened to begin in heaven. And let me end with this song. Let me end with this great chorus that's gonna be in heaven. And if you don't know you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you're in Revelation chapter five. So you're there singing this great. But it goes like this. It's in Revelation 5, beginning at verse number 9.

And it says, And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy are you to take the scroll, and to open its seals. For you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe, and language, and people, and nation. And you have made them a kingdom and priests to our gods, and they shall reign on the earth. Then it goes, then I looked and I heard around the throne and living creatures and the elders, the voice of many angels, numbering myriads upon myriads and thousands and thousands, sing with a loud voice, worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. And I heard every creature in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and in the sea, and all of them saying, to him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing, and honor, and glory, and might forever and ever. And the four living creatures say, Amen.

And the elders fell down in worship. And you're saying, thank you. That is over. But praise the Lord, isn't it? Does that sound chills down your throat, down your spine, thinking of millions and millions and millions of living creatures singing out from the depths of their soul of the greatness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Folks. I get something to tell you, we have something to celebrate. We have this great Christ and look at what he's done for us. May we never sing again, guess why? We have something to announce, right? I sing, you know why I sing? I sing because I cannot be silent. Let's bow our hearts in a moment of prayer.

Father, we thank you so much for your goodness. We thank you, Lord, for your love in our life. We thank you for the gospel. We thank you, Lord, that even if there was no gospel, you would be a God worth singing about, worth celebrating. But Lord, there is a gospel. There is a Christ who came, who died for such unworthy individuals such as us. Lord, and when we think of the surety of our redemption, when we think of a long life's path that we are almost home, God, we have something to celebrate. Help us so much, Lord, to recognize this. Help us to announce it, to sing it, to broadcast it with our voices. We thank you so much. Just be with us now in Jesus' name. We will close.