

Pre-service Song

You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

From my mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again into a family
Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

I am surrounded
By the arms of the father
I am surrounded
By songs of deliverance
We've been liberated
From our bondage
We're the sons and the daughters
Let us sing our freedom

You split the sea so I could walk right
Through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me so I could stand and sing
I am a child of God
I am a child of God

Call to worship

'When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?' (Psalm 56:3-4).

Opening Prayer & Confession

Merciful Father, we come to you because you first came to us in Jesus Christ our Saviour. We praise you for your great rescue that has set us free in Christ. We confess that at times we still live in fear and have forgotten your wonderful acts, not just what you did so long ago but what you've done in our own lives. Forgive us and set us free from fear that we might live as your children, free and joyful. **Amen.**

Opening song

**Thank you for saving me,
what can I say?
You are my everything,
I will sing Your praise
You shed Your blood for me,
what can I say?
You took my sin and shame,
a sinner called by name**

**Great is the Lord, Great is the Lord
For we know Your truth has set us free
You've set Your hope in me**

**Mercy and grace are mine,
forgiven is my sin
Jesus, my only hope,
the Saviour of the world
"Great is the Lord" we cry,
God let Your kingdom come
Your word has let me see,
thank you for saving me.**

**Great is the Lord, Great is the Lord
For we know Your truth has set us free
You've set Your hope in me.**

Reading: Acts 12:6-11

So Peter was kept in prison, but those in the church were earnestly praying to God for him.

On that very night before Herod was going to bring him out for trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the prison cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, “Get up quickly!” And the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. ⁸The angel said to him, “Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.” Peter did so. Then the angel said to him, “Put on your cloak and follow me.”

⁹Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening through the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰After they had passed the first and second guards, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went outside and walked down one narrow street, when at once the angel left him. ¹¹When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from everything the Jewish people were expecting to happen.”

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection – The Great Escape

Song:

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
 that saved a wretch like me;
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 was blind, but now I see.**

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

**and grace my fears relieved;
 How precious did that grace appear,
 the hour I first believed!**

***My chains are gone, I've been set free,
 My God my Saviour has ransomed me.
 And like a flood his mercy rains,
 Unending love, amazing grace.***

**The Lord has promised good to me,
 His word my hope secures;
 He will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.**

My chains are gone...

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
 the sun forebear to shine.
 But God who called me here below
 will be forever mine,
 will be forever mine.
 You are forever mine.**

Prayers

Gracious Lord, we pray for those across the world who are imprisoned for their faith. Help them to hold on to their faith despite their circumstances, and encourage them as you encouraged Peter and Yun.

Lord, we pray for the city of Leicester and its outbreak of coronavirus. We pray for health officials as they seek to contain the outbreak, for residents as they live with the worry of this time, for businesses as they struggle to survive, and for the response of the churches that your grace and mercy may shine through.

Lord, we pray for evangelists across the world, sharing the good news of Jesus with others in these troubled times. May hearts be open to your truth in Jesus Christ.

Lord, we pray for open doors here in Bowthorpe and the city of Norwich, that there may be an open door for your message in people's hearts. We pray for Irene Plummer in hospital, for her recovery and wellbeing.

Finally Lord, we pray for ourselves and those whom we love, that whatever we are facing that we may know the truth that you are bigger than any enemy, any health scare, any money worry, any job loss; you are able to do more than we can possibly ask or imagine. Lord, where we are imprisoned by fear, release us in love; for your glory's sake. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing song

**And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

**He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;**

**For, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.**

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown,
through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my
own.**

Closing prayer and blessing

God our Heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ you have shown us freedom, truth and love. May we walk in your freedom and without fear; may we believe your truth and discard the devil's lies; may we hold fast to your love that all may know you are the Lord of life; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all whom you love, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.