

November 8 – Singing in the Dark: Gratitude in Every Season

What song do you sing when the night is long and the doors are still locked? This Sunday, we join Paul and Silas at midnight, where prayer and praise rise from a prison cell before anything changes. Come worship with us as we explore a gratitude that tells the truth about hardship, trusts that God is near and becomes a melody of hope for everyone listening.

Scripture:

Acts 16:16–34 NLT

16 One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the
future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting,
"These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved." 18 This went on day after
day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus
Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her. 19 Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed
Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. 20 "The whole city is in an uproar because of
these Jews!" they shouted to the city officials. 21 "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice."
22 A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods.
23 They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't
escape. 24 So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.
26 Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew
open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! 27 The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the
prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. 28 But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are
all here!" 29 The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he
brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be
saved, along with everyone in your household." 32 And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived
in his household. 33 Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and
everyone in his household were immediately baptized. 34 He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and
he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

John 17:20-24 NLT

20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that
they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the
world will believe you sent me. 22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in
them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you
love them as much as you love me. 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they
can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

Questions for Further Reflection

- When has gratitude helped you recognize God's presence in a difficult season?
- What is the difference between honest praise and pretending that everything is fine?
- How might your trust in God become a source of hope or encouragement for someone else?

Reading for the Week:

- **Monday:** Philippians 4:6-7
- **Tuesday:** Romans 5:3-5
- **Wednesday:** 1 Peter 4:12-13
- **Thursday:** Colossians 3:15-16
- **Friday:** Psalm 59:16-17