

Sermon Title: **The Lamb of God (one reason for joyful worship)**

Bible: Isaiah 53:7, John 1:29

Where & When: Sunday Worship at Gilroy UMC on August 26th, 2018

Audience: about 30 English Speaking Church members

## **Opening Prayer**

Let us pray!

The Love of God--because you love us, you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ.

God came to the earth for us. God became a human like us.

Please touch us this time in your grace and love! In Jesus' name. Amen!

## **1. The first Meeting of Worship Committee**

I am so thankful to see all of you. I am so blessed to have all of you in this worship. I need you. And the Worship Committee needs you.

Last Wednesday afternoon, I had my first meeting with the Worship Committee:

Pat Johns, Janet, and Steve. It took 2 hours to share our stories and ideas and

brainstorm some special Sunday worship plans, along with regular Sunday worship

services. We will listen to you all the time. Sometimes, we will challenge you.

With your help, we will improve our worship, steadily.

I am here to serve you. And our Worship Committee members are here to serve you. Please make us busy!

## **2. Joyful Worship - Resurrection**

In the last sermon, I mentioned that I had three principles for the worship: Joyful, Meaningful, and Participatory. Today, I would like to talk more about Joyful Worship.

Sunday Worship is Remembering and Celebrating Jesus' Resurrection. "O, Death, Where is your Victory? O Death, where is your sting?"

We remember that HE IS RISEN! We celebrate the VICTORY of Jesus Christ! We are Children of God. This is not only Jesus' Victory, but also our victory. His resurrection is our resurrection. His Victory is our victory. This is our hope and the Good News.

## **3. Joyful Worship - The Lamb of God**

While I remember the victory of Jesus, I remember the cross. I remember His suffering. Actually, the Lamb of God comes to us. All powerful God decided to become a human. God chose to be weak. God chose to be poor. God chose to suffer silently for us: for the innocent victims as well as for the sinners.

Of course, God came to the earth to save us from sin. Furthermore, God came to us to suffer with us. Sin is so bad that it separates all of us from God. Sinners want to run away from God. Victims, even innocent victims, want to hide from God.

As you might imagine, I have a few painful stories in my background.

Unfortunately, one big story is related to my family...when I was a little boy, I was not aware that it was painful. When I grew up, I realized how painful it truly was.

I was in silence. I was in the darkness. Even though it was not my fault, I hid myself in the darkness and in the silence. I was not able to stand this pain.

Nevertheless, I was afraid to leave the protection of that darkness, that silence, and that pain. Whenever the light came to me, whenever the rain poured out to me, I refused them. I refused the love of God.

It took a long long time to face the Lamb of God. When I touched the Lamb of God, I cried aloud from the silence. I came out toward the light from the darkness.

It is sometimes still painful, but it is not heavy anymore.

Because of this experience, along with the victory of Jesus, the Lamb of God is also the source of my joy.

God suffered instead of me, even when I did not understand my suffering.

God suffers with me, even when I am in darkness.

God is waiting for me with patience, even when I am in silence.

God knows me, and God loves me, even when I refuse God.

My suffering is with the Lamb of God. My suffering is on the cross.

This is great news and the reason for my joyful life.

#### **4. Come to the Worship AS YOU ARE**

In Gilroy Worship, God invites you and me to be joyful!

When we hope in the victory of Jesus, we are joyful!

When we touch the Lamb of God, we are also joyful!

Sometimes it is not easy to stay in God's presence.

That's why God became a human as we are. Please come to worship as you are. If you want to shout out, please shout out! If you want to be silent, it is okay to be silent. And if you want to cry, it is totally fine to cry.

You and I, we are the reason for this worship. Please touch and hug the Lamb of God.

#### **Closing Prayer**

Powerful God,

You choose to be weak. You choose to be poor. You choose to suffer with us.

Because your power is love. The Love of God, you are waiting for us to come.

We are yours! We are your loved ones. In Jesus' name. Amen!!