

# CALL TO WORSHIP

Harpeth Baptist Church

*The Old Testament, an overview*

## Jonah

### *Running from God*

Text: The Book of Jonah

#### Songs for this week

8:30

138 Learning to Lean

317 When I See the Blood

392 Rock of Ages

426 Just A Closer Walk With Thee

11:00

15 Across the Lands

111 And Can It Be?

His Mercy Is More

106 How Deep the Father's Love for Us

[This week's special music - His Mercy is More \(Click here to listen\)](#)

### How Deep the Father's Love for Us

This song was written in 1995 by Stuart Townend. Later on he wrote In Christ Alone along with Keith Getty. I found some of Stuart's thoughts on preparing to worship on his website.

"Worship has been described as the highest calling and privilege in the Christian's life. When we come together it is an opportunity to celebrate all that God is and all He has done for us. It's an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Him and one another, to experience His love afresh, and to be changed by the power of His Spirit."

"Worship begins with God.

That may seem an obvious statement, but it's something we can miss. We live in an alarmingly self-oriented society, where the bottom line to every choice we make, from relationships to religion, seems to be: "...but does it make me happy?"

If we're not careful we can bring this attitude into church, and even into our worship. We can come looking for the experience, for the 'warm feelings', or looking for God to lift the weight of our burdens and make us feel better. And, of course, none of these things are wrong in themselves. But when they take centre-stage in our thinking, we put ourselves in the place that God should be. Worship needs to be focused on what God requires, not on our own needs or desires."

Here are some of Stuart's comments about writing this particular song.

"Writing this song was an unusual experience for me. I'd already written quite a few songs for worship, but all in a

more contemporary worship style, drawing from my own musical background. But I distinctly remember getting this feeling one day that I was going to write a hymn! Now, like most people, I am familiar with hymns – they form part of my church background, and I love the truth contained in many of them. But I don't go home at the end of a busy day and put on a hymns album! So I don't think of hymns as where I'm at musically at all!

Nevertheless, I'd been meditating on the cross, and in particular what it cost the Father to give up his beloved Son to a torturous death on a cross. And what was my part in it? Not only was it my sin that put him there, but if I'd lived at that time, it would probably have been me in that crowd, shouting with everyone else 'crucify him'. It just makes his sacrifice all the more personal, all the more amazing, and all the more humbling. "

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

(Ephesians 3:14-21)