

Revelation Praise

Mitsuko

(I)

This is the 20th year after we first received the Revelation Praise. To commemorate the 20th anniversary I wished to have the Revelation Concert. In the beginning of this year, the praises “Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ (2)” (Revelation 22:21), “Come, Lord Jesus (2)” (Revelation 22:20), and “Amen of ‘Come, Lord Jesus’” were given as if falling from the sky. It triggered my wish for the concert, for I felt God desiring the Revelation Praise at this time. We wish more than anything to respond to the will of God who entrusts praises to us, and I believe that holding the concert itself does the work for His will to be done.

It was around 1 a.m. on January 16, 2000 when the first Revelation Praise was given to us. Our office was then located in an apartment complex called “Elsha” in Nishinomiya, Japan. Although it was almost midnight, a few staff workers were still working there. Naomi Hiraoka nicknamed Caro (deceased in 2008) was one of them, making an OHP sheet of a new praise for our Sunday worship of the next day. The lyrics of the praise were from the book of Revelation:

To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be
blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever
and ever. (Revelation 5:13 NAS)

Before leaving the office, I chatted with Caro. Seeing the scripture on her computer screen, I casually said, “I wish for a praise of ‘Holy, Holy, Holy’ from the Revelation chapter 4.”

Who could have imagined that such an utterance would lead to the arrival of a new praise? It was I who said, “I wish,” but it was actually God Himself who wished us to praise it, which I later recognized.

After coming home, past midnight I took a bath, when all of a sudden, utterly out of the blue, a melody popped out of my mouth. Since a young age I have seen poppy buds in my yard pop open to bloom, so I came to say, “A praise popped out of my mouth just like a poppy bud opens.”

In surprise, I thought I had to record this melody. I had no IC recorder like I do now nor tape recorder nearby. Then an answering machine in my office came to mind, and I left the melody in it before forgetting. Even though there was enough capacity, recording stopped as I sang one phrase, and I needed to try many times. (I wonder why, for it was the only time it did not work properly).

The following day after Sunday service, the recorded melody was taken into music notation. Normally Machi Murayama nicknamed Matchan (deceased in 2013) did the work, but she was too busy that day. I happened to see Manae Yamasaki walking outside my window, so I asked her to do it.

It was just a melody with no words. Although I had said, “I wish for a praise of ‘Holy, Holy, Holy,’” I did not recognize that this was the answer, much less remember that I had said it. I thought it good with the verse “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb,” but it did not match. Manae said that “Holy, Holy, Holy”

should fit perfectly. Applying the words to the tune, it was indeed a perfect fit. This was the praise “Holy, Alleluia,” which became our first Revelation Praise.

In the recording, there was a low singing voice overlapping mine. It was beyond the human range, according to Manae. Feeling scared, we decided not to tell anyone about it, but Manae spilled it out eventually. I believe many beings wanted to praise together and joined.

On that night of January 16, we sang this praise “Holy, Alleluia” together with eight staff workers who remained in the office. Since it was an easy-to-remember tune, everyone caught it at once and we kept on singing. After some time, with no stop signal, the praise somehow ceased. It had just turned into January 17, which was the 5th anniversary of the Great Hanshin Earthquake.

Those who were there said that the room was filled with light, and another one working in the next room felt its resonance and thought it was a record played at high volume. She said that her heart pounded.

Manae opened the window curtain and looked outside, wondering if the place were turned to heaven (being in awe). I too remember her opening the curtain. The outside was the same old street, and there was no one since it was past midnight. Strangely, however, we heard loud and cheerful voices of many children as if going on a field trip. The praise must have called forth the children who died in the Great Hanshin Earthquake.

We kept singing “Holy, Alleluia” for at least an hour, but incredibly the next morning not one person was able to recall the praise. Even Manae and Caro, who would never forget a melody after hearing once, did not remember it.

This was our encounter with a “new song.”

(II)

About a month before “Holy, Alleluia” was given, on December 19, 1999, I woke up hearing a voice, “Sing a new song,” and from then on I was told many times, “Sing a new song.” I had no idea what it meant at the time, but the Lord must have desired new worship.

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.

(Psalm 149:1 NAS)

(The praise of this verse was given on August 14, 2000, and it became the first praise from Psalm, released in Ashiya worship on August 16.)

Praise is a new song. David said:

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord.

(Psalm 40:3 NAS)

(The praise of this verse was given on January 16, 2002 and released in the Hawaii retreat on February 23, 2002.)

Giving a new song, the Lord must have desired all the earth to be filled with a new song. This is the new worship—worship of all things in heavens, on the earth and under the earth. For this purpose, I believe, praises are bestowed on the Church of the Wind.

I remember the words of the Lord given when the *Church of the Wind* was built:

The *Church of the Wind* is My new song.
(May 12, 2009)

Following “Holy, Alleluia,” praises were given one after another every day—like a flood. In this 20th year, we are receiving one praise after another just like those days. The total number of praises taken into music notation is 2,103 as of today, of which 134 are from the book of Revelation. Other than the Revelation, praises are given from various books such as Psalms, Isaiah, and the Gospels, as well as nature like flowers and winds. They are called “Hato Praise” or “Heavenly Praise.”

There is one thing I discovered, having received the Heavenly Praise.

All things have their own resounding: not only the scriptures and beautiful flowers, but also anger, sadness, pain and sin.

I believe it is because all things are created by the resounding sound, which is “the Word that was in the beginning.”

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (John 1:1-3 NAS)

I used to say that the scriptures had the most beautiful resounding, but now I feel every resounding is beautiful. What I meant by saying “the most beautiful” is that the will of God is conveyed most powerfully and directly.

Created by the word of God, all things are indeed praise, and they all are beautiful. Anger and sorrow too are beautiful when they become praise, for they are turned to the praise itself.

(III)

The following is a list of the milestone praises given during the past 20 years. Each title is followed by the date when it was first sung in public. The ones given in series have the date when the first version was released.

Holy, Alleluia (1/17/2000)

Song of Four Living Creatures (3/19/2000)

O My Virgin Israel (Jeremiah 31:3-4) (8/30/2000)

Please Heal (9/10/2000)

Isaiah 53 (10/18/2000)

A Great Joy (12/2/2000)

I Love the Lord (Psalm 116) (5/10/2000)

Confitemini Domino (Psalm 136:1) (4/18/2004)

Jesus (10/11/2009)

Credo (11/1/2009)

Pater Noster (“The Lord’s Prayer” in Latin) (1/2/2011)

Ametsuchi Kozorite (4/5/2015)

Kansha Kansha Kansha (4/17/2016)

Live (2/14/2020)

Abwoon (the Lord’s Prayer in Aramaic) (2/16/2020, introduced among the staff 1/12/2020)

The most recent praise is a series of “Blood of the Lord.” In praising the Blood of the Lord, we are witnessing the power of praising and pleading the Blood with one accord and with one voice. The Blood is the power of prayer in the Body of Christ.

Facing the coronavirus pandemic this year, people and the earth are in great pain. (According to the news on November 30, the number of the infected is 62,700,000, and

the death toll has risen to 1,460,000.)

Some experts also say that massive earthquakes can happen here in Japan anytime, even tomorrow. We, the people of praise, are entrusted with a big task.

We give praise and prayer with one mind and with one voice. I cannot help but feel that it is for this present time that many praises have been given to us since the year 2000.

All creation return to Christ and praise Him. Here is done the will of God who sent His Son to the world. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, gave up His life on the cross for the fulfillment of love, forgiveness and healing. The time has come when this redeeming love of the cross is accomplished.

In 1993 when the first sanctuary of Kohitsuji no Mure, the Ashiya Church, was given, the Lord spoke to us in the opening service, "Everything is completed in praise," and the faith in praise was bestowed. I feel from that time we entered the dimension of new worship.

In 2000, the Revelation Praise started, and our eyes have been gradually opened to what new worship is. By our aiming toward heavenly worship and giving praise, I believe, the plan of God is fulfilled, and the redeeming love of Christ is manifested. Heavenly worship is the worship in Spirit and truth.

*Those who are called to heavenly worship,
give praise as the four living creatures.*

I have entrusted love to you.

(May 20, 2007)

Praise is the sign that My love is eternal.

(December 17, 2006)

*Nothing is impossible with the perfect love,
for it is the love that is revealed
amid the worship in Spirit and truth.*

(June 17, 2007)

In 2008, the Church of the Wind was given to us. Since my encounter with the Lord, He had kept telling me for years, “I am waiting.” I asked what He was waiting for, but received no answer. Even after the Revelation Praise started and even when more than 100 praises were lavished on us, He still said, “I am waiting.” As the plan to build the Church of the Wind proceeded, however, He said, “It has finally begun,” and I realized that what He was waiting for was the Church of the Wind. To be precise, He was waiting for the worship fulfilled through the Church of the Wind.

*I have been waiting for the time and the place
for those in heaven to worship together
with those on the earth.*

(August 10, 2008)

Heaven and earth worship together. I believe God has been showing us that His plan shall be accomplished on the whole earth when heaven and earth worship as one.

In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

(Ephesians 1:8-10 NAS)

The time has come for all creation to worship together.

Pastor Peter calls it “Cosmic Worship.” All things created by God become one in Cosmic Worship and praise the One who sits on the throne and the Lamb. Here the will of God is done.

I believe that praise is the core of Cosmic Worship, and its center is the multi-dimensional praise.

(IV)

The multi-dimensional praise is the resounding of different praises sung together, and I see it as a new resounding which emerges with praise reaching a certain height. It is a “new song” born out of our praising with one voice and with one mind.

In this concert we have multi-dimensional praises in which two to five versions, or twelve at most are sung together.

Rather than focusing on each of the melodies overlapping and following, I hope you will listen to a “new song” in the entirety of the harmony. And you will find the resonance of multi-dimensional praise manifesting the presence of the Lord. The presence of the invisible God fills the sanctuary and envelops all of us as if we could touch it with our hands. This is His peace, love, healing, forgiveness and joy.

We have heard so many people testify, “I was healed just being in the resounding.” When the presence of the Lord is revealed, it means that He is with us, so it is no wonder that healing happens. You will notice the resonance overflowing with His love and manifesting His peace.

It must be one of the answers from God for this anxious time.

We praise the redeeming love of the cross of Christ. Everything starts in worship before the Throne and leads to it. When the worship before the Throne permeates the whole universe, Cosmic Worship will be accomplished in its literal sense, for the entire earth will become worship itself.

This is the time of the completion of Christ's redemption, and the time of the consummation of the Body of Christ.

“Everything is completed in praise.” I believe worship is evolving to this.

We rejoice in God, exalt Him and continue to give praise for His will to be done. Together with all creation we shall praise the One who sits on the Throne and the Lamb forevermore.

May the love, peace and healing of God be done on the earth.

May the joy of God fill heaven and earth.

November 17, 2020

Afterthought

Now let me share some backstage episodes.

I am in charge of producing the concert. For instance, I decide how to sing “Holy, Alleluia,” such as who starts singing, who joins a solo, whether it is followed by male or female voices, where multi-dimensional praise starts, and so on. Although I say I decide, the fact is that its resounding flashes within. It only takes less than 20 seconds even for 10 versions. I simply produce as I hear it as a whole. In fact it is

rather the staff who have a hard time jotting down what I verbalize.

For this concert, praises are sung with many different versions. For instance, “Holy, Alleluia” has 12 versions. It inevitably gets complicated in producing them (though in truth it is in one simple stream.) In the course of practice, I need to make changes as the choir’s voices change. Although complicated already, it keeps on going through changes. So it is not easy for the choir, while knowing that changes are for more beautiful resounding. Nevertheless, they catch them in no time and create harmony beyond my expectation. It is obvious that heavenly people are at work.

For the first time in this concert, as a new attempt, the choir stands on four tiers (including the floor). Due to coronavirus, the choir consists of 12 people (normally 40). It is the maximum number to keep a necessary distance.

At first, some staff workers arranged the choir and their standing positions: 10 choir members standing on two tiers. When I saw it, I rearranged it to 11 standing on three tiers including the floor level. Still I was concerned that resonance was not enough. As I thought it inevitable and was about to give up, suddenly an idea welled up within, “Let’s try four tiers.” I felt hearing the choir singing on the four tiers, though I had never heard it. It was an inconceivable challenge because the distance between the ceiling and the top tier was quite short. However, I had faith in the sanctuary of the Church of the Wind, for it was built for praise to resound without microphones.

So we tried four tiers, and it resounded truly beautiful. At once the resonance multiplied manifold, giving the impression of heaven. The choir of 11 members brought forth resonance enough to fill the sanctuary. It was such a joy

to know this.

At first there were not enough standing platforms, and the stage was uneven. Atsushi Sakuma, a house church leader, made many platforms to make it even, and it became the nice four-tier stage. Then I realized one more person was needed. There was an empty spot through which I heard the resonance escaping. I remembered my original desire: “Twelve would be good.” So I added one more in the choir.

What was surprising for not only me but also everyone was that the whole resounding changed as the new member just stood in the choir, for I asked him, “You don’t have to sing today. Just stand there.” One person joined without singing, and it changed the resounding. It showed us the mystery of the standing position.

And I was convinced that the Lord was waiting for this resonating sound.

It was not that the four-tier stage was set from the start, but rather we proceeded from two tiers to three, and then to four. It was not done by us, but helped by the Lord, and by the invisible ones in heaven. I wholeheartedly recognized it. I also felt it was the work of praise itself.

Praise speaks, teaches and brings us to a higher dimension of praise.

Even in arranging the choir stage, I see the power to accomplish the will of the Lord is at work.

In this concert there are only 12 in the choir, but the voices of praise exceed the number, for resounding of many others join, such as birds chirping voices at times.

Resounding of invisible people in heaven, and inner voices of all of you sitting in the sanctuary as “resonating vessels” join too. I have the joyful imagination that clouds in the sky and winds join us also.

All creation desires to praise the One who sits on the Throne and the Lamb. We pray that the praise before the Throne may resound all over the earth.

May the will of God be done.

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