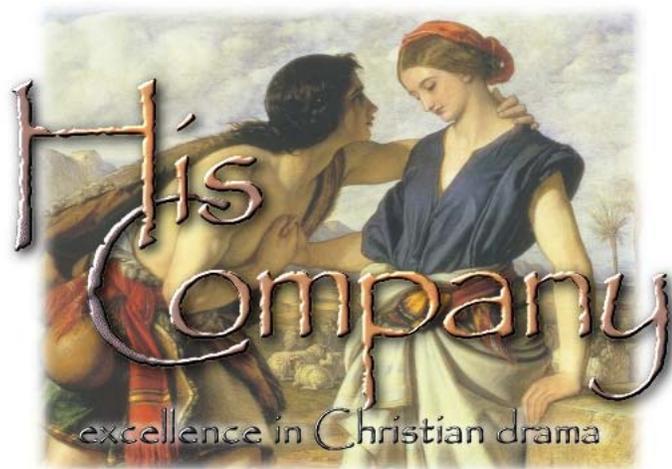


BEFORE THE THRONE

A WORSHIP MUSICAL

by
David S. Lampel



AUTHOR'S NOTE

5 Before the Throne is a worship musical suitable for Sunday morning service. It is a “cantata-type” musical, meaning a series of songs connected by narration. The Narrator is called the Worship Leader. Depending on the traditions of the congregation, Before the Throne allows for unstructured praise-prayers by audience as well as performers and audience participation in singing worship choruses. The emphasis is on Biblical worship in this musical, stressing communal worship over performance. It relies heavily on scripture.

SONGS ORIGINALLY USED

10	Great is the Lord	8vo
	Rejoice, Worship and Sing	*
	Let Us See Your Glory	*
	Sing For Joy	*
	We Exalt Thee	<i>Exaltation</i>
15	Psalm 150	*
	His Love Endures Forever	*
	Peace in the Midst of the Storm	*
	God is Our Refuge	*
20	We Fought the Fight	*

* from *His Love Endures Forever* (Good Life) by Dan Burgess. TRAX used throughout; instrumental music used for offertory. This music literature is no longer available; if you would like to perform this as a musical, new music needs to be inserted.

SCRIPT

OPENING REMARKS by Pastor or etc.

WORSHIP LEADER

30 *(after Welcome and Prayer)*

One of the privileges—and delights—of being a child of God is the privilege of worship, freely offering up our sacrifice of praise to our heavenly Father.

The Apostle Peter, in his first epistle, gives us guidelines for preparing
35 ourselves for Worship.

(reading from Bible)

“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word,

40 that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the
 kindness of the Lord. And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by
 men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also as living
 stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to
 offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”¹

Come worship the Lord; enter His courts with praise!

45

[Options for the following narration from the Psalms:

*1. (preferred) Two members of the choir, from the platform,
 alternating lines.*

2. Worship Leader.

50

3. Members of the audience, prepared in advance.]

Psalm 95 & 96

Great is the Lord and worthy of our praise!

He is to be feared above all gods.

55

All the gods of the nations are simply idols,

but the Lord made the heavens!

Splendor and majesty are before Him;

Strength and glory are in His sanctuary!

Give to the Lord the glory due His name;

60

bring and offering and come into His courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

tremble before Him.

Come, let us worship and bow down;

Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

65

For He is our God,

and we are His people! +

Great is the Lord!

Great are You, Lord!

70

SONG: “GREAT IS THE LORD”

Choir Processes, timed to reach platform (stage) by 4-part.

75

WORSHIP LEADER

(After “Great is the Lord”)

80

Few people have caught a glimpse of heaven and returned to tell about it. John, the apostle, was one of the few. He was a very old man, only a few years of his long and rich life remaining, and living in exile on the island of Patmos. In the Spirit, he was invited up to see “what must take place after these things.” And oh, what magnificent things he saw! A glorious throne where the Almighty sat, surrounded by an emerald rainbow and a sea like crystalline glass; he saw the Almighty One surrounded, too, by twenty-four elders and four living creatures.

85

However, the most important sight before John was just what those elders and creatures were doing.

(pause)

90

In the 16th Century, one Brother Lawrence, a monk, wrote: “The thing we ought to purpose to ourselves in this life is to become the most perfect worshippers of God we can possibly be—as we will be through all eternity.”

95

John tells us, in the fourth chapter of Revelation, how the inhabitants of heaven are spending their time. It is also a picture of our occupation, once we’ve passed through the heavenly gates: “Day and night, never ceasing, they are worshipping God: ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, Who was, Who is, and Who is to come.’ “They fall down and worship Him, casting their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power! For

You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being.’ ”

100

SONG: “REJOICE, WORSHIP AND SING”

WORSHIP LEADER

Before the throne of God—and for all time—we will be worshipping and praising Him.

105

(pause)

The religious scholars in Jesus’ day were constantly calling Him on points of law, trying to catch Him, finding cause for His arrest. One day a scribe asked Him: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?”

110

Jesus answered: “The greatest is ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord your God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole law and the prophets.”²

115

Jesus condensed for us, all of the commandments into two priorities:

First, we should worship our God, an outpouring of love and adoration from a grateful heart; then we should carry that love—a love deepened by our communion with Him—to our neighbors.

120

But it’s not always that simple, is it? We live in a time and age when it can be a struggle finding that communion with our heavenly Father. It’s not something that comes easily for us. And you don’t find this communion by simply stepping into a church—you don’t find His presence by listening to others as they worship. No, you must actively seek Him.

125

Sometimes you want Him, you need Him so badly, but you can’t feel Him. Then, your first prayer is for the heavenly Father to reveal Himself to you.

SONG: “LET US SEE YOUR GLORY”

SONG: “SING FOR JOY”

130

Someone from the Choir

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord...

Come before His presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.”

135

WORSHIP LEADER

“The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy which can ever engage the attention of a child of God is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.” The words of Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

140

(pause)

In worship we seek to realize the presence of God; then, by an effort of the mind, we approach Him; with our heart, we call upon His name. In worship we please the Father by proclaiming His singular qualities: His power, His sufficiency, His majesty—His holiness. We focus on Who He is; later will come thanksgiving, for what He has done.

145

(pause)

The Father wants us to properly prepare ourselves for worship. He wants us to know who it is we worship—and why. But sometimes the words aren’t there. Sometimes all we can muster are the groanings of a bursting heart. So when the words aren’t there—when the stirrings of your heart have taken over, then just exalt Him. Lift Him higher than everything else there is!

150

SONG: “WE EXALT THEE”

155 *The Worship Leader invites the audience to join with the choir for final choruses of song.
Audience remains standing for participatory prayer to follow.*

WORSHIP LEADER

(after We Exalt Thee—but before any audience participation)

160 Father in heaven, we bow in all humility before Your throne. We are
overwhelmed by Your majesty—Your holiness. Yet, we are here, with
confidence, because of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, our Savior,
we have obtained access to Your presence. Oh Father, how we love You!
Your love is immeasurable. Your mercy is limitless. You are sufficient for
every need—every care. Now, hear the prayers of Your people. Receive
165 their praise and adoration.

170 *At this point members of the audience are encouraged to offer up their own prayers of
worship and praise. This can be facilitated by tipping off several members of the audience
and choir, and placing an explanatory note in the program. This is an important moment.
Some of those who are already tuned to acts of worship may be in the habit of relegating
worship to the vehicle of music only. This moment encourages the “fruit of their lips” even
without music.*

175 *After all have been given an opportunity—and there is no reason to cut this segment
short—the WORSHIP LEADER closes the prayer and seats the audience as the Trax begin
for PSALM 150.*

WORSHIP LEADER

Father, receive this outpouring of praise and the worship of Your people.
Amen.

180 **SONG: “PSALM 150”**

WORSHIP LEADER

(at P.44, M.65 of “Psalm 150”)

“Magnify the Lord with me! Let’s exalt His name together!”

185 *The audience stands and sings with choir.*

WORSHIP LEADER*(after "PSALM 150")*

190 How beautifully God has designed His worship! Have you noticed? Even
 when we direct every thought, every word of praise and adoration up to
 Him, the blessings shower back upon us! Even when we give to Him—He
 gives back to us tenfold. And because He returns to us so much, it is only
 proper that after we've brought our sacrifice of praise before our God—
 195 our praise for who He is—that we then offer up our thanksgiving for what
 He has done in our lives. We are encouraged in the Psalms to "enter His
 gates with thanksgiving!"

Various Choir Members

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name!"

200 "Remember the wonders He has done."

"Praise the Lord!"

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!"

"For His lovingkindness is everlasting."

SONG: "HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER"

205

WORSHIP LEADER

We will never run out of reasons to thank Him, will we? No matter how
 badly we stumble—no matter how great our sin—He is there offering
 forgiveness and peace. No matter how small our faith, He is patient and
 210 quick to answer our needs.

(pause)

One day Jesus and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee. Weary
 from His ministry, Jesus found an out-of-the-way spot on the boat and fell
 asleep. Then a storm encompassed the boat. The waves grew taller and
 215 taller, until ready to swamp the small boat! The disciples feared for their
 lives. They roused their Master: "Save us Lord! We are perishing!" Jesus
 rebuked the winds and the sea. By simply saying the words, he calmed

220 the storm. But then He turned to His disciples and rebuked them: “Where
is your faith?” He said. We can only imagine His disappointment at their
lack of trust.³

How often do we disappoint the Lord by failing to place all of our trust in
Him? How often is our faith colored by the circumstances of this world,
instead of the solid promises of God’s Word? And how often do we cry
out to Him in our despair and He answers, calming the tempest about us,
225 bringing peace to our troubled hearts.

SONG: “PEACE IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM”

SONG: “GOD IS OUR REFUGE”

230 **WORSHIP LEADER**

(over intro to “GOD IS OUR REFUGE”)

Psalm 46 tells how our strength and refuge are to be found in the God of
heaven. Open your Bibles and follow along in Psalm 46 as the choir sings.

WORSHIP LEADER

235 *(includes invitation)*

To the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s Well Jesus said: “An hour is
coming—and in fact, already is—when the true worshippers shall
worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to
be His worshippers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must
240 worship in spirit and truth.”⁴

Jesus was saying that true worship is that of our spirit, meaning, those
who worship must deal honestly and openly with God. All is open before
Him. We cast our crowns of pride and selfishness at His feet, bowing in
humble adoration before His throne.

245 *(pause)*

Well, we've come full circle. We began by proclaiming together praise to His greatness! But then we went deeper, seeking His glory, seeking a communion of love with the Father. Then we attained that communion, reverently lifting His name above all others. True worship of our heavenly
 250 Father ignites in us the joy of real thanksgiving and a desire to take the beauty of this experience to others. The logical result of worship is a sharing of God's love with others. Our sacrifice of praise also brings us closer to the realization that the Lord protects and comforts those who are His. Because we belong to Him, we have peace in our hearts.

255 But this morning there may be someone who doesn't yet know that peace because they haven't the Lord in their heart. Our access to the Father is through Jesus Christ, and if He is not living in your heart—if you have never made Him the Lord of your life—then that may be why your thanksgiving is empty; that may be why your worship is only a
 260 meaningless exercise.

If you don't know His peace, if Jesus Christ is not a part of your life, then I invite you to open your heart to Him this morning. He died for you; He died and rose again, so that you might live. When our time of worship is over, I invite you to come speak with _____ [choir
 265 director or Pastor] or any member of the choir. We would be happy to share with you the joy of knowing Jesus Christ.

Yes, we have come full circle—because the result of all this is an overwhelming desire to praise His name! And if, in all this, we seek a reward, then this is our reward—it is our destiny. There will come that
 270 day when, face to face, we meet our heavenly Father and His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. And what will be our response to that moment?

(with exuberant joy)

275 "To Him Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever!"⁵

SONG: “WE FOUGHT THE FIGHT”

WORSHIP LEADER

(preparing for the offering to be received)

280 In the ninth chapter of second Corinthians, the Apostle Paul shows us
how even the giving of our tithes and offering is an act of worship:

(reading from Bible)

285 “Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also
supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of
your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can
be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result
in thanksgiving to God.

290 “This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s
people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.
Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will
praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the
gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with
everyone else.

295 “And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of
the surpassing grace God has given you.

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”⁶

Let this time of giving be a part of your worship. Let it be a time of
communion with the Father, of recommitment to His service.

300 *After offering, closing remarks by Pastor, choir director or WORSHIP LEADER*

NOTES

- 305 1. 1 Peter 2:1-5 NASB.
2. Mark 12:28-31 / Matthew 22:36ff.
3. Matt. 8:23-27 / Mark 4:35-41 / Luke 8:22-25 / Psalm 107:28-30.
4. John 4:7-24.
5. Revelation 5:13.
6. 2 Corinthians 9:10-15 NIV.

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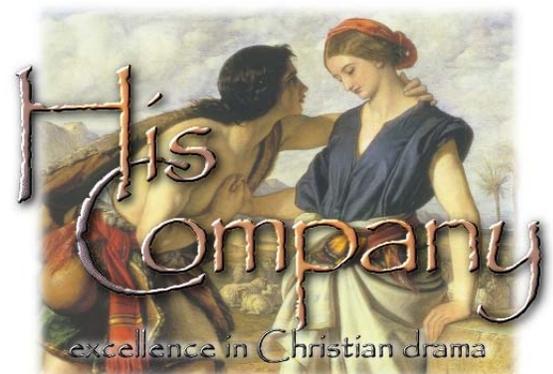
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