

Christ Calls Us Forth

Based on Acts 1:8

CONGREGATION PART

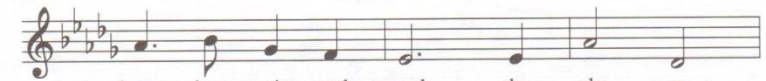
Words and Music by
K. LEE SCOTT



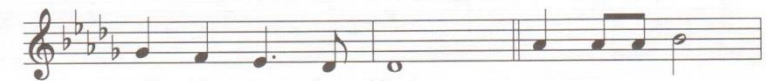
Choir 1. Christ calls us forth to Je - ru - sa - lem, a -
Choir 2. Christ sends us forth to Ju - de - a's plains, where
Choir 3. Christ sends us forth to Sa - ma - ri - a to
All 4. Christ sends us forth to the world a - round; "To



mong its mass - es to pro-claim to all in
an - gels told his won-drous birth. To hum-ble
those of dif-ferent clan and race, that they may
ev - ery crea-ture bear the word." Tell out the



hope - less pain and need, the glo - ry
vil - la - ges a - round, re - tell the
know his lov - ing care, the Gos - pel
tid - ings through the earth, that all may



of his sav - ing Name.
Sav - ior's match - less worth. "You shall re-ceive
of re - deem - ing grace.
own him as the Lord.



power when the Ho - ly Spir - it comes to you, and



you shall be my wit - ness - es in Je -



ru - sa-lem and Ju - de - a and Sa - ma - ri - a, to the



ut - most ends of the earth."

Finding Your Mission

Sermon Notes February 1, 2015

David Renwick

From the NPC Strategic Plan (October 2014):

Goal 3: PROCLAIM AND EMBODY THE GOSPEL TOGETHER

Spread Christ's love and good news in God's world – in our neighborhood and beyond.

- 3.1: **Increase each member's participation in missions and outreach; be "salt and light," sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in words, deeds, or both. Christ has called each of us to go and make disciples.** We believe NPC should be a place that helps equip its congregants to fulfill Christ's calling to spread His message and love. Over half of our congregation expressed an interest in serving, and we want to make it easier for people to say, "Here am I. Send me!"
- 3.2: . . . **increase congregational awareness of NPC's missions and outreach priorities and investments.** When someone asks what NPC is all about, missions should be among the first things that come to mind.
- 3.3: **Live out our commitment to proclaim and embody the Gospel by incrementally increasing our missions budget each year, with the goal of allocating 20% of NPC's tithes and offerings to external missions within 5 years.**

Check out NPC Website for Mission details
<http://nationalpres.org/international>
<http://nationalpres.org/local>

Goal 4: DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE TOGETHER

- 4.3: **Enhance relationships and hospitality between NPC and its surrounding neighborhoods, city, and region.** We must enhance and deepen our relationships with our surrounding community to draw those in near proximity into closer relationship with us and, more importantly, into closer relationship with God.
- 4.4: **Expand and sustain the NPC community by pursuing, supporting, and adapting to a younger and more diverse membership.** To do this, we must be able to meet the needs and support the spiritual growth of students, young families, and young adults from a variety of backgrounds.

Today's Scripture: Romans 15:18-33

The overwhelming sense of God's Mighty Purpose in the life of the Apostle Paul

Being Used for a Mighty Purpose: Joy!

This is the true joy in life, the *being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one*; I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die... Life is no "brief candle" to me.

It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

[George Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*, (Preface)]

God's Mighty Purposes: NPC Plan Scriptures on Our Mission

What We Are Called to Be:

1. Jesus said, "*You (all) are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*" –Matthew 5:13-14,16
2. Jesus said, "*You (all) shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem (where you live), Judea and Samaria (close to where you live) and to the ends of the earth (the World).*" –Acts 1:8

What We are Called To Do:

1. Jesus said, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you (all) always, to the end of the age.*" –Matthew 28:18-20
2. *How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?* –1 John 3:17
3. *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'* –Isaiah 6:8

God's Mighty Purposes – Not only in Great Things but in Daily Life

"Never, in peace or war, commit your virtue or your happiness to the future. Happy work is best done by the man who takes his long-term plans somewhat lightly and works from moment to moment 'as to the Lord.' It is only our daily bread that we are encouraged to ask for. The present is the only time in which any duty can be done or any grace received."

[C.S. Lewis: "Learning in War Time," *The Weight of Glory*, p.61.]

Mark Labberton: *Called: The Crisis and Promise of Following Jesus Today*, 2014.

Kathleen Norris: *The Quotidian Mysteries*, 1998

Brother Lawrence: *The Practice of the Presence of God*, 1600's.