



Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati
405 West Seventh Street
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Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

The Glorious Call to Serve Jesus Christ in the Present Age

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45 NASB)

On this glorious Lord’s Day, I am reminded of the wonderful message in song that we sing here at Union.

HOW GLORIOUS AND EXCELLENT IS OUR GOD

How glorious and excellent is our God!
How glorious and excellent is our God!
No power is greater than our God, Our Creator.
How glorious and excellent is our God!

It is well, It is well
It is well with my soul!

I will trust in the Lord;
I will trust in the Lord;
I will trust in the Lord, ‘till I die.
I will trust in the Lord;
I will trust in the Lord;
I will trust in the Lord, ‘till I die. –Freda Battle

My Brothers and Sisters,

These words truly reflect the passionate beliefs of all dedicated and consecrated servants of Jesus Christ who out of their commitment and love for Him understand, not only the need to praise and serve Him all the days of their lives, but also the message of our Savior in the scripture above.

In these perilous times in which we live, we are both confronted and challenged daily as followers of Christ with various circumstances, obligations and responsibilities, which “test our faith and commitment to being **faithful servants of God**. Today, we find through our varied experiences in life, that in order to carry out “God’s plan and purpose for our lives,” we must believe fully in the One “...**who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.**” (1 Peter 2:9)

In Exodus 3:14-17, we find the record of the patriarch Moses questioning his assignment from God. The Lord answered him by revealing Himself as the **Great I Am** and the **One** who had promised to rescue the Israelites. Thus, it was only by humbly **trusting and serving** completely

in the divine nature and character of God and in His promises that Moses would be able to serve and to lead God’s people in accomplishing this **seemingly impossible mission and God-given assignment.**

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20





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In the Gospel of our Lord, Mark 10:32-45, this incident reveals our Lord's disciples' failure to comprehend Jesus' teaching on **service and humility**. Ignoring the Lord's repeated instruction that He is going to Jerusalem to die, the disciples still thought that the physical manifestation of the kingdom was about to appear, and they were busy maneuvering for having a place of leadership and prominence in His kingdom.

Jesus, who was the **supreme example of servant leadership**, made it clear to all His disciples, including James and John who wanted to gain the advantage of leadership positions over all the other disciples, that **true greatness** comes in unselfish service to others. The **Good News** of the message of the Christian Church that is to be proclaimed and witnessed is that **"The King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16) relinquished His privileges (Philippians 2:5-8) and gave His life as a selfless sacrifice in serving others. Christ's substitutionary death on behalf of those who would put their faith in Him is the most glorious blessed truth in all of scripture."**

The late Oswald Chambers, in his very wise and relevant comments on the message of Christ, **"The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve,"** has stated the following: "If our devotion is to the cause of humanity, we will be quickly defeated and broken-hearted, since we will often be confronted with a great deal of ingratitude from other people. But if we are motivated by our love for God, no amount of ingratitude will be able to hinder us from serving one another. Once we realize that Jesus has served us even to the depths of our meagerness, selfishness and sin, nothing we encounter from others will be able to exhaust our determination to serve others for His sake."

To the wonderful and loyal members of Union, to the pastors and guest churches who have fellowshiped in sharing our joy as "one Body in Christ," and especially to Pastor and Sis. Rousseau Andre O'Neal III and the Rockdale Baptist Church family and to our beloved nephew and wife, Elder and Sis. Reginald L. Yates and the Greater Friendship Primitive Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee, we sincerely thank you for your many expressions of love and prayers extended to our family during this 29th Pastoral Appreciation Observance.

Finally, we truly want to express our deep gratitude to the General Chair, Sister Angelita Moreno Jones, Co-Chairs and the 2017 Pastor's Appreciation Committee for your many sacrifices and labor of love in planning this week's activities and worship opportunities.

"To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done!"

Pastor Orlando B. Yates and First Lady Margie H. Yates and Family



"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18 – 20

