

Praise the Lord in 2018!

Psalm 146:1-10

Greetings everyone and Happy New Year!

Psalm 146:1-2 says, "Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long."

Another year full of triumphs and tragedies has quickly passed us by. God's faithful twins, Grace and Mercy, covered us each day and brought us safely into 2018. Not all went as planned in 2017 for so many of us. Many are still reeling from blows dealt to us and those we love from last year. I firmly believe that God is trying to get our attention. Will we heed the voice of God? Through it all, our goal is to remain faithful to a God who remains faithful to us.

I am here to remind you that the Word of God is true and without fail (**Psalm 33:4; Luke 1:37**). Look at the promises that God tells us are ours (those who love God) in this Psalm. Our God is not distant but, cares about the intimate details of our lives. The next verse tells us to put our trust in God, not those who are in positions of power. They are mortal and will die like us and their plans with them. We find happiness in God, the Creator and sustainer of heaven and earth. Our God executes justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, sets the prisoner free, gives sight to the blind, lifts those who are oppressed, watches over strangers, and blesses widows and orphans. Our God lives and reigns forever!

What an awesome opportunity to sing praises to our God who cares for us! (**1 Peter 5:7**). In the words of our songwriter, Edwin Mote (1834), "*My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' Name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand.*" Praise the Lord!

**Minister Phoebe Jeter,
Associate Minister**



**St. John Baptist Church
Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor
662 S 52nd Street
Richmond, CA 94804**

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