February 21, 2021 - FULL TEXT – 1000 BLENDED

GOD IS ON THE MOVE
ANYTIME A HEART TURNS FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT;
ANYTIME TEMPTATION COMES AND SOMEONE STANDS TO FIGHT;
ANYTIME SOMEBODY LIVES TO SERVE AND NOT BE SERVED,
I KNOW, I KNOW, I KNOW, I KNOW:
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MOVE, HALLELUJAH!
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE IN MANY MIGHTY WAYS.
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MOVE, HALLELUJAH!
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MOVE TODAY.

ANYTIME IN WEAKNESS SOMEONE FALLS UPON THEIR KNEES
OR DARES TO SPEAK THE TRUTH THAT SETS MEN FREE;
ANYTIME THE CHOICE IS MADE TO STAND UPON THE WORD,
I KNOW, I KNOW, I KNOW, I KNOW:
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MOVE, HALLELUJAH!
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE IN MANY MIGHTY WAYS.
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MOVE, HALLELUJAH!
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MOVE TODAY.

I SEE A GENERATION STANDING ON THE TRUTH.
IN EACH AND EV’RY NATION, GOD IS ON THE MOVE.

ANYTIME THE GOSPEL STIRS A SEARCHING SOUL,
AND SOMEONE SAYS, “SEND ME. HERE I GO.”
I KNOW, I KNOW, I KNOW, I KNOW:
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MOVE, HALLELUJAH!
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE IN MANY MIGHTY WAYS.
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MOVE, HALLELUJAH!
  GOD IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MOVE TODAY. {Repeat section}

I SEE A GENERATION STANDING ON THE TRUTH.
IN EACH AND EV’RY NATION, GOD IS ON THE MOVE.

OPENING HYMN:  DOWN BY THE JORDAN
Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
preaching a message the people found bold and surprising.
“God will forgive! Show that you’ll change how you live!
Surely God’s new day is rising!”

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
taking Your place among sinners, God’s lost sons and daughters.
Then with great love, God’s Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.
Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God’s Spirit. Freed and forgiven we’re welcomed with joy! Can you hear it? This is God’s sign! This is how God says, “You’re mine!” Let’s take the good news and share it!

**WHEN JESUS CAME TO JORDAN**

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John, He did not come for pardon but as the sinless one. He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins, to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss, for us and our salvation to die upon the cross. So when the dove descended on Him, the Son of Man, the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make; this very day invade us, and every bondage break. Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most: to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

*Please rise in body or in spirit for the reading of the Gospel. Our scripture for today comes from the gospel according to Mark, chapter 1, verses 9 through 15.*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Here ends the reading for today.

May this scripture inspire us all…§ to walk in the way that leads to life.
I AM NOT AFRAID
In the emptiness of silence when the world has turned away;
Beneath the weight of sorrow when I can no longer pray;
In the wilderness of worry, in the desert of despair;
In the never-ending darkness when it seems that no one cares,

I am not afraid, I am not alone.
You hold me in Your hands and will not let me go.
Though the waters rise and though the winds may blow,
I will not be afraid, for I am not alone.

When there are no words of comfort that can stem the flow of tears;
When I’m stranded at the center of a rising tide of fear;
When there is no path before me, when my feet have lost their way,
I remember You are with me and I am not afraid!

I am not afraid, I am not alone.
You hold me in Your hands and will not let me go.
Though the waters rise and though the winds may blow,
I will not be afraid, for I am not alone.

Our Black History Moment song for today was inspired by violent events. Written by TobyMac, Kirk Franklin, and Mandisa — artists who had worked together on a song called “Lose My Soul” in 2007 — “Bleed the Same” was written about of a week where there was a shooting on Tuesday, a shooting on Wednesday and a shooting on Thursday.

The song puts a spotlight on the superficial reasons we judge others and why it’s time to stand united. Mandisa explained, "I got together with my songwriters and I really wanted to write a song about how hate cannot chase out hate. Only love can do that. And so, it’s a song saying that we all bleed the same on the inside, so let's not put labels on each other on the outside and bring disunity. Let’s come together and walk in unity and in love."

This poignant song was released as the third single from Mandisa’s album “Out of the Dark” just in time for Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January of 2018. The track was inspired by the shootings of black men by the police during the week of Independence Day in 2016. Mandisa explained:

“On Tuesday, there was a shooting of a black man by police. On Wednesday, there was another shooting of a black man by police. And on Thursday, there was a shooting of police by a black man in Dallas. And I remember that week so vividly. There was so much division and hate, and it broke my heart.”
“That week really inspired this song, about how we are more beautiful when we come together, and the power of unity. And that's why the song coming out before Martin Luther King Day was so important. It reminds us of his dream and what is actually possible if we come together.”

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH MOMENT – BLEED THE SAME**

**WE ALL BLEED THE SAME.**
**WE’RE MORE BEAUTIFUL WHEN WE COME TOGETHER.**
**WE ALL BLEED THE SAME.**
**SO TELL ME WHY, TELL ME WHY WE’RE DIVIDED.**

WOKE UP TODAY; ANOTHER HEADLINE, ANOTHER INNOCENT LIFE IS TAKEN IN THE NAME OF HATRED. SO HARD TO TAKE, AND IF WE THINK THAT IT’S ALL GOOD, THEN WE’RE MISTAKEN, ‘CAUSE MY HEART IS BREAKING.

ARE YOU LEFT? ARE YOU RIGHT?
POINTING FINGERS, TAKING SIDES.
WHEN ARE WE GONNA REALIZE

**WE ALL BLEED THE SAME.**
**WE’RE MORE BEAUTIFUL WHEN WE COME TOGETHER.**
**WE ALL BLEED THE SAME.**
**SO TELL ME WHY, TELL ME WHY WE’RE DIVIDED.**

IF WE’RE GONNA FIGHT, LET’S FIGHT FOR EACH OTHER. IF WE’RE GONNA SHOUT, LET LOVE BE THE CRY.
WE ALL BLEED THE SAME.
SO TELL ME WHY, TELL ME WHY WE’RE DIVIDED.

TELL ME, WHO ARE WE TO JUDGE SOMEONE BY THE KIND OF CLOTHES THEY’RE WEARING OR THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN?
ARE YOU BLACK? ARE YOU WHITE?
AREN’T WE ALL THE SAME INSIDE?
FATHER, OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE

**WE ALL BLEED THE SAME.**
**WE’RE MORE BEAUTIFUL WHEN WE COME TOGETHER.**
**WE ALL BLEED THE SAME.**
**SO TELL ME WHY, TELL ME WHY WE’RE DIVIDED.**
IF WE’RE GONNA FIGHT, LET’S FIGHT FOR EACH OTHER. IF WE’RE GONNA SHOUT, LET LOVE BE THE CRY. WE ALL BLEED THE SAME. SO TELL ME WHY, TELL ME WHY WE’RE DIVIDED.

ONLY LOVE CAN DRIVE OUT ALL THE DARKNESS. WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR? WE WERE MADE TO CARRY ONE ANOTHER; WE WERE MADE FOR MORE.

ONLY LOVE CAN DRIVE OUT ALL THE DARKNESS. WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR? WE WERE MADE TO CARRY ONE ANOTHER; WE WERE MADE FOR MORE.

WE ALL BLEED THE SAME.
WE’RE MORE BEAUTIFUL WHEN WE COME TOGETHER. WE ALL BLEED THE SAME.
SO TELL ME WHY, TELL ME WHY WE’RE DIVIDED.

IF WE’RE GONNA FIGHT, LET’S FIGHT FOR EACH OTHER. IF WE’RE GONNA SHOUT, LET LOVE BE THE CRY. WE ALL BLEED THE SAME. LET’S STAND UNITED, LET’S STAND UNITED.

The Lord’s Prayer

SUNG

THE RIVER
I KNOW A PLACE, WHERE WE CAN GO, TO LAY THE TROUBLES DOWN Eatin’ YOUR SOUL, I KNOW A PLACE, WHERE MERCY FLOWS, TAKE THE STAINS, MAKE YOU WHITER THAN SNOW. LIKE A TIDE, IT IS RISIN’ UP, DEEP INSIDE, A CURRENT THAT MOVES AND MAKES IT COME ALIVE. LIVING WATER THAT BRINGS THE DEAD TO LIFE. OH, OH.

WE’RE GOIN’ DOWN TO THE RIVER, DOWN TO THE RIVER, DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY, AY, AY. LET’S GET WASHED BY THE WATER, WASHED BY THE WATER AND RISE UP IN AMAZING GRACE. LET’S GO DOWN, DOWN, DOWN,
TO THE RIVER. YOU WILL LEAVE CHANGED.
LET’S GO DOWN, DOWN, DOWN, TO THE RIVER.
NEVER THE SAME.

I’VE SEEN IT MOVE, IN MY OWN LIFE,
TOOK ME FROM DUSTY ROADS INTO PARADISE.
ALL OF MY DIRT, ALL OF MY SHAME,
DROWNED IN THE STREAMS THAT’VE MADE ME BORN AGAIN.
LIKE A TIDE, IT IS RISIN’ UP, DEEP INSIDE,
A CURRENT THAT MOVES AND MAKES IT COME ALIVE.
LIVING WATER THAT BRINGS THE DEAD TO LIFE. OH, OH.

WE’RE GOIN’ DOWN TO THE RIVER, DOWN TO THE RIVER,
DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY, AY, AY.
LET’S GET WASHED BY THE WATER, WASHED BY THE WATER
AND RISE UP IN AMAZING GRACE.

LET’S GO DOWN, DOWN, DOWN,
TO THE RIVER. YOU WILL LEAVE CHANGED.
LET’S GO DOWN, DOWN, DOWN, TO THE RIVER.
NEVER THE SAME.
LET’S GO DOWN. (OO... OO... OO...)
LET’S GO DOWN. (OO... OO... OO...)
LET’S GO DOWN.

WE’RE GOIN’ DOWN TO THE RIVER,
DOWN TO THE RIVER,
DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY, AY, AY.
LET’S GET WASHED BY THE WATER,
WASHED BY THE WATER
AND RISE UP IN AMAZING GRACE.
LET’S GO DOWN, DOWN, DOWN,
TO THE RIVER. YOU WILL LEAVE CHANGED.
LET’S GO DOWN, DOWN, DOWN, TO THE RIVER.
NEVER THE SAME.
OH, DOWN. (OO... OO... OO...)
GOTTA GO, GOTTA GO, GOTTA GO DOWN IN AMAZING GRACE.
DOWN, DOWN, DOWN TO THE RIVER.
GOTTA GO, GOTTA GO, GOTTA GO DOWN IN AMAZING GRACE.

Postlude REFLECTION ORGAN