

A NEW SONG

NORTHWOODS WORSHIP



Live Album
10-Day Devotional

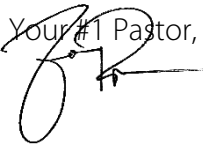
Northwoods Family –

The day has finally arrived—the release of our very first worship album, “A New Song!” It’s hard to believe, but this is a long-held Northwoods dream of almost 20 years in the making. Each one of these 10 tracks represents more than just music—they’re songs born out of the story God is writing through the people of Northwoods and represent our response to His goodness in our lives.

This companion devotional you hold in your hands was written by several members of our worship team. It’s designed to introduce you to the heartbeat behind each song and ultimately draw you closer to the heart of God. Take your time with each day. Read it. Apply it. Reflect on it. Talk about it with others. Most importantly, talk about it with Jesus.

Our prayer for you is whether you’re listening at home, in your car, or gathered with us at Northwoods, that these songs would inspire your faith, bring you hope, and awaken your heart to the reality that God wants to do a new work in your life. We truly believe He wants to put a new song in your mouth!

Your #1 Pastor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Rychener". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jon Rychener

"A New Song" Live Album

10-DAY DEVOTIONAL

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DAY 1: A NEW SONG

Scripture Reading: Psalm 40:1-5

Devotional by Pastor Amy Sutton

Patient Waiting Leads to Divine Breakthrough:

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

What powerful hope lies in these words! Just as David experienced God's faithful response after patient waiting, Northwoods Worship has witnessed our songwriting vision come to life after many years of perseverance. Our journey reminds us that God's timing is perfect, even when progress seems slow. When you find yourself in a season of waiting—perhaps for healing, direction, or breakthrough—remember that God is actively working behind the scenes. He doesn't just hear your cry; He responds by lifting you "out of the slimy pit" and placing your feet on solid ground.

Your New Song Has Kingdom Purpose:

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.

What an extraordinary privilege! The songs God places in our hearts—whether literal music or the transformed story of our lives—serve a purpose far beyond personal expression. They become powerful testimonies that draw others to Christ. Before encountering Jesus, perhaps your life's song was one of brokenness, emptiness, striving, or loneliness. But now? Your new identity in Christ is Chosen! Holy! Righteous! Blameless! Your testimony is your new song. And it might be exactly what someone else needs to hear to find their way to trusting Jesus as their Savior.

Declare His Innumerable Wonders with Bold Gratitude:

Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

Let this truth ignite passionate worship in your heart! None of us could ever catalog all of God's incredible works, but we are called to faithfully declare what we have personally witnessed. Today, make a commitment to become a bold steward of your testimony. Share your stories of God's faithfulness with someone who needs encouragement. Your declaration of His wonders might be the catalyst for another person's breakthrough! There's nobody that Jesus can't reach.

Reflection Questions:

1. Is there any area of your life where you need to exercise patient waiting with hopeful expectation for God to intervene?

2. How is your new song influencing those around you? Are you boldly singing the melody God has given you, or are you keeping it to yourself?

3. What wonders has God performed in your life? What deliverances, healings, or provisions have you experienced?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, give me wisdom as I navigate my own seasons of waiting. Help me to look to You expectantly knowing that in Your timing and in Your way, You will fulfill all of Your promises. Thank You for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus which has changed my life for now and eternity. Help me to share the goodness and truth of who You are to those in my circle of influence by sharing my story and the new song You've written over my life. Amen.

DAY 2: ONE TRUE GOD

Scripture Reading: Psalm 145 ESV

Devotional by Corey Endress

Great is the Lord!

When David wrote this Psalm, he had an interesting range of examples in mind to back up his claim, *Great is the LORD*. If you think about people in history who you'd consider "great," you'd probably think of courageous leaders, successful generals, brilliant inventors, revolutionaries—people who moved and shook culture and accomplished extraordinary things. Like we might expect, David points out how great our God is by talking about *the glorious splendor of [His] majesty* (v. 5), *the might of [His] awesome deeds* (v. 6), and *the glory of [His] kingdom* (v. 11). Who else could hang the stars and the planets in their places? Who else's hands could dig out a place for the oceans and set their boundaries? Who else could breathe life into every living thing? He stands alone! What could be more extraordinary than all of that?

But David goes on, and I'm so grateful that he does. What else makes the Lord great? *The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love* (v. 8). *The LORD is good to all,—not just the ones who we think deserve it—and his mercy is over all that he has made* (v.9). *The LORD is near to all who call on him*, (v. 18). His goodness, His love, His mercy—it all goes hand in hand with His greatness! The only way that God can be so kind to an undeserving world is because His capacity is so vast. To see the greatness of God's love, we need to look no further than its greatest expression: the Cross—the place where Jesus overcame the weight of all our sin and made a way for us to come back into relationship with the Father. With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, He lifted the burden no one else could lift. We can say with certainty, Great is the Lord!

He is Greatly to be Praised!

So how do we respond to this great God? Well, how do we respond to any great thing that we see? If you go see Niagara Falls or the Grand Canyon, you'll talk about how amazing it was for years to come. You'll show your friends the pictures, buy the t-shirt, and think back on it in wonder. Great things deserve great praise! So how much more does the Greatest One deserve our unashamed and extravagant praise?

As you meditate on who God is today—as you search out His great, unsearchable depths—may you be amazed once again at who He is. Then, let His praise overflow in your personal time of worship, in your conversations throughout the day, and in everything you do!

Reflection Questions:

1. What is one aspect of God's greatness that you want to experience more of today? His power? His mercy? Whatever it is, ask Him to reveal more about it to you.

2. As He reveals Himself to you, ask Him what you can do to respond with great praise. What do you hear Him telling you?

Prayer:

Lord, You are great and greatly to be praised! I don't want to settle for only scratching the surface of knowing who You are. Take me deeper today! Help me to search out Your greatness that is unsearchable. Let me know the heights of Your power and the depths of Your love. Let me see the breadth of Your glory and the length of Your mercy. And Lord, help me to make Your praise great today! I pray that my praise would draw others to know You and love You. May I be a clear reflection of Your greatness in all that I say and do. Amen!

DAY 3: ON THE ROCK

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27

Devotional by Pastor Kirk Moser

Many of you may not know this, but I came from a construction family. My father and brothers were all in the trades. I used to be a carpenter before coming to work in the Creative Arts Department at Northwoods. My father, a brick mason, said, "If the foundation is bad, no amount of great bricklaying will make it right." That is true in construction as well as in our everyday life.

If we build our life on a foundation that is weak, shaky, or sketchy, it is just a matter of time before the storms of life will make it fall apart. And, believe me, the storms will come. We live in such a broken world, one that is always giving suggestions of how to make life better with little results.

The only sure thing in this world is knowing Jesus and walking daily with Him. The more we get to know Him and spend time with Him, our walk and life become more secure. I can give testimony to that fact. Over the years, tragedies have hit, sorrow has come, and pain has invaded my everyday life. I am so grateful that the Lord was with me all the way and because of my faith foundation in Him, I have persevered.

One of the greatest examples of someone who put their trust in Jesus was Corrie Ten Boom. She left her mark on this world for her unwavering faith and trust in God. She survived ten months in political prisons and concentration camps under the rule of the Nazis in World War II. She endured hardship under their cruel reign. Corrie Ten Boom was quoted as saying, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." This was only possible because she had a firm foundation in Jesus.

Building a strong foundation in Christ is not a one-time event but a continual process. It involves daily commitment, prayer, and immersing ourselves in His Word. As we grow in our relationship with Him, we become more resilient, able to withstand life's challenges with grace and strength. This ongoing journey of faith equips us not only to endure but also to thrive, sharing His love and hope with others. By staying steady on this journey, when the storms of life come, you will have a foundation built to stand the test and Jesus will walk through it with you.

DAY 4: HIGHEST PRAISE

Scripture Reading: Psalm 145:2-3 AMP

Devotional by Lindsay Sereno

Have you ever visited a beautiful, grand place and used the phrase “pictures don’t do it justice” when describing it? It’s hard to capture the splendor of it all in one snapshot. The same is true with our marvelous God! It’s difficult to express the complete magnitude of His greatness because it’s so vast. God’s creation, works, and character are far beyond anything we can fully comprehend here on Earth. We can’t even begin to fathom all He is and all He has done for us!

God’s creation is breathtaking, filled with creativity and beauty. He is the creator of the entire world, down to every intricate detail. His goodness in our lives is immeasurable. By sending His only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins, He offers us salvation—worthy of our highest praise. But His work doesn’t stop there. God is always with us, working everything for our good, even in trials. He is our healer, comforter, miracle-worker, provider, and friend. Unlike anyone else, He is complete perfection: gracious, sovereign, holy, righteous, powerful, faithful, merciful, and loving. These descriptions are just a glimpse of how amazing our God is!

When we take a step back and truly think about God’s incredible majesty and unending love for us, how can we not praise Him? Out of our awe and reverence for the Lord, authentic worship should flow from our lives every single day. He is worth the absolute highest praise we could possibly give Him!

When we talk about giving God praise, of course that can mean worshiping Him through music and songs. He deserves our passionate pursuit—with voices singing out and hands raised high, not holding anything back. Even more so though, worship encompasses our entire lives—all our actions, thoughts, and words. Everything should be done for the Lord’s glory because He is worthy of all we can give! Our lives should bring honor to Him and be a direct reflection of Jesus for all to see.

Our whole hearts should be surrendered to the Lord; every single part—not just the easy or convenient ones. He deserves every ounce of our being, including the things that are hard to let go of. Even on the days when we don’t really feel like it, or when worship isn’t naturally flowing out, we can remind ourselves of God’s profound goodness. We can choose to remember who He is and exalt His name on high!

Reflection Questions:

1. What are some specific aspects of God that make you most filled with awe and wonder?
2. In what ways can you step out and give God even more of your praise?
3. Is there any part of your life where you are not fully surrendered to the Lord in worship? If so, how can you make a tangible change to give Him your whole heart?

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for the beauty of Your creation all around me. Thank You for all You've done in my life and the many blessings You've given me and thank You for Your unconditional love and sacrifice. I'm in awe of who You are; help me to bring You honor in all I do and to surrender every part of myself in worship. Remind me daily of Your goodness as I give You all of my praise! In Jesus' mighty name. Amen!

DAY 5: WEIGHT OF GLORY

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Devotional by Lydia Bridgeman

It's easy to grow weary. Life has a way of pressing in with waves of disappointment, sickness, grief, and stress. Whether it's the slow wear of daily struggles or the sharp sting of sudden trials, the weight of this world can feel unbearable.

I remember when a couple of us sat down to write this song, we soon realized that every one of us was walking through a trial that felt heavy. Maybe you've been there, too—when the load feels crushing and the way forward seems dim.

In this Scripture passage, we see that the Apostle Paul wrote this profound encouragement to the Corinthians, and to us, not as someone removed from suffering, but as someone shaped by it. Shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonment, betrayal—Paul knew affliction intimately. Yet, he dared to call all of it “light” and “momentary.” How could he say that? Because he had seen something greater.

Paul had caught a glimpse of the eternal weight of glory. Not a fleeting pleasure. Not a shallow reward. But something solid, lasting, and unspeakably good. In fact, Paul says it's beyond all comparison. Nothing in this life can measure up to the glory God is preparing for His children. Every trial we endure, every tear we shed, is being woven into something of eternal worth.

This weight of glory is more than just relief from pain—it's the very presence and beauty of God fully experienced. It's the restoration of everything broken. It's joy that never fades, peace that can't be shaken, and love that finally feels complete.

And here's the mystery: our present afflictions are actually *preparing* us for that glory. God is using your suffering as a tool to shape you for eternity. The pressure you feel now is forming in you a greater capacity to receive and reflect His glory forever. It's not wasted. It's not random. It's part of the plan. So we don't lose heart—not because life is easy, but because God's promise is sure. One day, you will look back and see that even the heaviest burdens here were light compared to what He had in store for you.

As one of the lines in “Weight of Glory” declares, “The best is yet to come!” With God, we can declare with confidence that the best is truly yet to come, both in this life and in eternity!

Reflection Questions:

1. What light momentary afflictions are you carrying right now?
2. How might God be renewing your inner self through these trials?
3. What would it look like today to focus more on the eternal than the temporary?

Prayer:

Father, You know the weight I carry—the burdens, the battles, the unseen struggles of my heart. Thank You that even in my weakness, You are renewing me day by day. Help me to see my trials not as wasted pain, but as tools in Your hands, shaping me for eternity. Teach me to lift my eyes beyond what is temporary, so I may cling to what is eternal. Fill me with courage when I feel weary, with peace when I feel pressed, and with joy in knowing that Your glory is far greater than anything I face today. Keep my heart steadfast in the promise that the best is yet to come. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 6: WHAT A FATHER, WHAT A FRIEND

Scripture Reading: Psalm 46:1, Ephesians 1:5 (NLT), Colossians 2:6

Devotional by Pastor Josh Rivera

God Is Our Present Help:

Psalm 46:1 says, *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.* That means He's not far off, waiting for us to get our act together before showing up. He's right here, closer than the air that we breathe, like our song says. We don't have to chase Him down or wonder if He notices us. He sees, He hears, and He's right in the middle of our mess. Life can feel like you're stranded, trying to figure it out on your own. But the truth is, you're not alone. His presence is not just a Sunday morning thing; it's right here, right now! When trouble comes, remember you've got a Father and a Friend who's not going anywhere.

From Orphan To Family:

In the song we sing about being like an orphan with no home, but then God opened His door. That's not just poetry, that's the Gospel! Ephesians 1:5 says, *God decided in advance to adopt us [...] through Jesus Christ...* You're not just invited to visit; you belong. He brings us from the outside in, seats us at His table, and calls us His own. That means your worth isn't in what you've done, but in who He says you are. You're fully loved and fully known – no pretending, no performing. When you feel left out or unwanted, remember that you've been claimed by the King of the Universe. You have a seat with your name on it.

Living Like We Belong:

It's one thing to know that God is our Father and Friend, it's another to live like it's true. Colossians 2:6 says, *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him.* That means walking every day like you really are loved, cared for, and safe in His hands. Fear loses its grip when you know who's holding you. You can face challenges with courage because you trust your Father's heart, and you can love people well because you've experienced His love first. Every decision, every moment, becomes a chance to remember—I'm His kid and He's got me! Let this truth settle deep in your heart today and transform how you face every challenge: you belong to Him, and that changes everything.

DAY 7: FATHER OF LIGHTS

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-3 (ESV); James 1:17 (ESV)

Devotional by Korey Endress

Let There Be Light

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep...

Can you imagine it? There was once a time when there was no light in the Universe; everything was darkness. Father God was ready to begin forming the Earth and filling it with beautiful creatures, but there was something He needed to do first.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Suddenly, creation became visible! Instead of keeping it all hidden in darkness, there was now the ability to see all the good things that God would create. On the first day in history, our Father gave birth to the light that would make life sustainable and the world around us perceptible. He became the Father of lights.

Every Good Gift

From that day onward, He hasn't stopped giving good gift after good gift to the world. In fact, He has never given us a single thing that isn't good! This is what it means that in Him *...there is no variation or shadow due to change*. He can only be good, and He can only do good! Just as light is incorruptible by darkness, God is incorruptible by any form of evil. He cannot be selfish, cruel, uncaring, or unkind.

Now, the question on your heart may be, "If God is so good, then why is this world so messed up?" or more personally, "Why do so many bad things keep happening to me?" You're not alone, and yes, this world is messed up. I don't know what you've been through in life, but thanks to John 10:10, I know two things for sure:

1. The devil comes into your life to steal, kill, and destroy everything he can; *but...*
2. The Father sent Jesus—the Light of the World—so that we could have life and have it abundantly.

For too long, the devil has been lying to us all. He's been the one harming us and causing chaos, both by bringing destructive forces into our lives and by tempting us into self-destructive sin, and all the while he's blamed it on God. But thank God that He gives us another good gift: the light of His truth! Just like light pierces through darkness, when we receive the truth, it breaks through every lie that has kept us from our perfect, loving Father, who only wants to do good to us. By the blood of Jesus, He

defeated the lies and works of the devil that were meant to destroy us, and He broke down every obstacle that stood between us and Himself! He held back nothing good from us. Instead, He gave His best; He gave His Son.

Maybe you've put God at a distance after a loss or tragedy. I've been there. Maybe you've never experienced what it is to know God as your Father. I've been there, too. Maybe right now you're going through something that's left you thinking, "God, what good can You possibly bring out of this?" Whatever the case may be, I encourage you today to let Him show you how good He is. Let Him open your eyes to what the light of His love can do.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is something good that God has brought into your life recently? Take a moment to thank Him for it.

2. Is there anything you've been holding against God that needs to be laid down today? Don't be afraid to bring it to Him. Ask Him to show you what lies you've believed and to reveal the truth to you instead.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You that I can come to You as my Father today. Thank You for every good gift in my life and that You always provide everything that I need. Wherever I've believed lies about You or lies about myself, let the light of Your truth set me free. Show me Your light; open my eyes to Your goodness. And Father, let me grow to be just like You. Let me reflect the light of Your face and reveal Your love to the world around me today. Amen.

DAY 8: THE DAWN

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:4-5

Devotional by Pastor Kirk Moser

Have you ever been so overwhelmed that you couldn't speak? Come with me for a moment to experience what it must have felt like for Jesus' followers on the morning after His crucifixion. This event that they had just witnessed—so horrible, so unimaginable—must have taken their breath away.

Jesus' followers had seen it all: watching the soldiers beat Him, mock Him, and lead Him to His death. Disbelief, anger, horror, and sadness rushed into every corner of their beings as they watched this man, who was so loving and so kind to everyone He met, die a death He never deserved. And all they could do was watch.

Jesus, the one who endured all this, gathered His last ounce of strength. Just taking a breath was an intense and brutal physical battle at that point. But with power, compassion, and humility He spoke the words that were the turning point for all mankind: *"Father, forgive them."* He knew what mankind needed. He knew what must be said, lest there be any doubt. This is why He suffered. He took our place and paid the price for our sin that we would never be able to pay. All for love. His great love for you and me.

Do you feel it? Do you know it? Now what?

All that's left for us to say is, "Thank you." Thank you to the One who proved His love by showing it to us in the greatest way possible—by giving His life in exchange for our freedom. Sins are paid in full, Heaven is assured. All that's left is for us to freely follow Him with all our heart. To live for Him every day. To be a fully devoted follower of Christ. Do those things as you remember all our Lord has done for us.

As today's Scripture says,

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Say it to Jesus: "Thank You for Your body broken. Thank You for Your blood poured out." When you do, He will smile. It was worth it all.

Reflection Questions:

1. Ask The Lord to reveal if there is any sin in your heart and life that you need to make right before Him today. Repent and receive His forgiveness.

2. How does reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice change your perspective on your daily life and challenges?

3. In what ways can you express gratitude for His love and sacrifice?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, I will never have enough words to sufficiently thank You for all that You've done to change my life and eternity. But may I never stop thanking You with all that I am! I believe You came to Earth, You lived a perfect life as an example for me, You died in my place, and You rose again to rule forever! Help me to walk in gratitude and humility every day. Help me to keep my heart focused on You and to stay surrendered to Your will and Your ways. In Your precious name. Amen.

DAY 9: THERE IS A NAME

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:15-29

Devotional by Pastor Amy Sutton

In today's reading, we see an incredible description of the supremacy of Christ. Verses 15-20 remind us that Jesus holds all things together, and it is only through Jesus' blood that we can be reconciled in our relationship with God the Father. Verse 21 reminds us that we were once alienated from God, separated by our sin, but now because of Jesus' radical act of deliverance through His death and resurrection, and by our faith in Him, we are now welcome before the Lord as blameless and righteous. This section of Scripture deserves a holy pause.

Our Lord Jesus, enthroned above all rulers and authorities, loved us enough to come near. To make a way. To restore what was broken. To rescue us from sin and death.

In the spring of 2024, three of us songwriters got together to explore this powerful chapter, which reveals an incredible juxtaposition of God Almighty who is also God Approachable. He rules and reigns. He comes near. He is perfect and Holy. He loves the sinner and sets them free.

As you reflect on who Jesus is today, take some time to read these additional Scriptures that give us a glimpse at what the Name of Jesus means for us:

- One Name that stands above all others. (Phil 2:9)
- One Name that reconciles a broken world to its Perfect Maker. (Romans 5:10)
- One Name that strips away division and unites us as cherished and beloved children of the Most High God. (Galatians 3:26-29)
- One Name that offers forgiveness and freedom from the grip of sin and shame. (1 Corinthians 15:56-57)
- One Name that offers salvation to all. (Acts 4:12)

The paradox of Jesus is profound: the Perfect, Mighty Son of God is also intimately acquainted with us, loving each of us deeply. How can this be? This is the beauty of His Name. The Lord of all became Emmanuel, God with Us, laying aside Heaven's glory to live, die, and rise for us, restoring us to the Father.

Embracing this truth transforms our lives, compelling us to share it so that every tongue and heart may lift the Name of Jesus high.

DAY 10: MORE

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:16-21 NIV

Devotional by Pastor Jon Rychener

The word **more** is one we have been focused on in 2025 and it comes right out of our Scripture reading for today. But when we talk and sing about God's **more**, it may make us wonder what that **more** really entails.

Well, first let's recognize that **more** is God's power at work within us, and it's always about bringing Him glory—not making our own names great. But also take note that Paul's prayer for **more** is rooted in what he's prayed in verses 16-19.

Paul prays for four outcomes, each introduced by "that"—and these help us grasp what God's **more** entails:

1. Stronger in Spirit:

Paul prays, *...that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being*, (Eph. 3:16). He's asking God to give us inner strength—the kind that holds up under pressure and doesn't fall apart when life gets tough!

2. Closer in Relationship:

Paul continues, *so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...* (Eph. 3:17). The people he's writing to already have Christ in their hearts, but Paul wants Christ to feel at home there—not just a visitor, but a resident. Paul's praying for a relationship with Jesus that's deep, comfortable, and ever-growing.

3. Rooted in Love:

He prays, *...that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power [...] to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ*, (Eph. 3:17-18). Paul wants us to move beyond just knowing about God's love to truly experiencing it—so deeply rooted that it shapes everything we do and share with others.

4. Filled to Full:

Finally, Paul prays, *...that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God*. (Eph. 3:19). He's asking that our lives overflow with God's character, grace, and power.



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