

My name is Chase Putnam and I'm a sophomore at Sun Prairie High School.
My portion of the sermon is entitled: FAITH THROUGH MUSIC

(sung) Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God...

I am here to worship...worship God. And for me, expressing faith is most meaningful through music. We all have our own preferences, our own special ways for how we experience our faith. Music is a simple and very meaningful way to express our love for God. From a tender young age we are exposed to faith in song. We are taught those simple little expressions of our love for Jesus. Somehow, they stick with us as we grow, and along with them, our faith grows. As our own personal journey begins, we are moved to bring God into our hearts through worship.

(sung) Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see you...I want to see you.

Sometimes, it might become difficult to really see or feel the presence of God in our lives. And sometimes we need to open our hearts and our minds to allow God to enter in. Have you ever become overwhelmed with emotion when you heard a song or hymn that really told your own personal story? Maybe you could really relate because of something that might have been happening in your own personal life. I believe that is God working through music. It is a means for Him to say "I'm here for you...Open your heart and take me in".

(sung) I need a sign to let me know you're here...Callin' all You Angels...

Signs of God's love are all around us. They exist in everything we experience - every day of our lives. God isn't just the "Church" or the "Praying". God is in each and every one of us - His "Angels" - through fellowship, through our commitment to answer our own personal callings, and to share that calling with others. When my Dad passed away 2 years ago, I felt an emptiness that compares to none. I didn't feel like I belonged anywhere - not at school, not at church, sometimes not even at home. Well, God sent His "Angels" during my tough time and that's how I found Radiance. Through the love and guidance of my fellow musicians, I found a purpose and at the same time I found God. Like me, many people feel compelled to share their love for God through music. Whether it be a beautiful Christmas solo or a powerful Choir - our calling through music is our love for God pouring out to all who will listen.

(sung) Our God is an Awesome God, He reigns from Heaven above, with wisdom, power and love, our God is an Awesome God.

God is powerful stuff. But it's not just what God is...It's what YOU do with it. It's how you live your life, and how you share your faith with those who need it most. It's up to you to make that happen. It's a decision that you alone must choose, and then find your own personal way to express it. Music is a way for to you to let the world know that your God is truly Awesome.

(sung) Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road. Time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go. So make the best of this test and don't ask why. It's not a question, but a lesson learned in time. It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right. I hope you had the time of your life.

The time of your life...Your life is the time to experience God and to share those experiences with others. On my faith journey, this is the time to express my faith through music. Whatever way you experience faith, whatever faith choices you make, and whatever you choose to do with them, may you find God in a way that opens your heart to His goodness.
Thanks be to God.