

## **Preeminent One Song Story**

In the fall of 2019, we hosted a songwriting Worship Collective followed by a full-day writing retreat at the IDC building. One of our objectives was to try to write a song to accompany the upcoming Colossians series we were about to go through as a church.

Our time together began with discussion on some long range songwriting strategies. After thinking through concepts like direction, framework, and message we took a break to allow for individual time to read through and meditate on the book of Colossians. When we gathered together again we talked through themes, key passages, and particular verses that stood out to each of us. We kept returning to the concept of the preeminence of Christ.

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” Colossians 1:15-20*

After wrestling through different attempts at lyrical stanzas and directional thoughts, Daniel, who was one of our team, sat at the piano and exclaimed, “I just want to sing ‘hallelujah’ at the reality of Christ’s preeminence!” So, we did. The chorus, which is intended to be the big idea of the song, began to take shape.

*Hallelujah! The Preeminent One  
Jesus, God the Son revealed to us  
Hallelujah! It is Him we proclaim  
Magnify His name!  
Christ in us, Hope of glory*

Next, Christy went to the whiteboard to lead us through a time of considering what preeminence meant. Alex, Nate, Daniel, and Kimberly joined in to capture themes and put a melody together in order to create the bridge portion of the song.

*He’s Worthy, Unrivaled, Matchless in power, Jesus, Preeminent One!  
He’s Sovereign, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, Jesus, Him we proclaim!*

We left our songwriting retreat with a solid chorus and bridge along with a couple of verses that, after taking some time away from the retreat in order to see more clearly, simply did not fit the rest of the song.

Several weeks later, Kimberly was able to complete the song structure drawing straight from the scriptural text allowing the accomplished task of musical verses to propel toward the main concept or idea found in the chorus. By God’s grace – a lot of wrestling with lyrics, various melody lines, and instrumentation – *Preeminent One* was eventually ready for recording.