

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, December 4, 2022)

Share:

Say to those of a fearful heart:

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

Behold! The glory of the Lord shines upon us!

Say to those with weak hands and feeble knees:

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

Behold! In splendor, the Lord dwells among us!

My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Mighty One has done great things. Holy is God's name!

Read these words from a song

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

Read this scripture from worship:

Isaiah 11:1-10, *The Message*

¹⁻⁵ A green Shoot will sprout from Jesse's stump, from his roots a budding Branch.

The life-giving Spirit of GOD will hover over him, the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding, the Spirit that gives direction and builds strength, the Spirit that instills knowledge and Fear-of-GOD. Fear-of-GOD will be all his joy and delight. He won't judge by appearances, won't decide on the basis of hearsay. He'll judge the needy by what is right, render decisions on earth's poor with justice. His words will bring everyone to awed attention. A mere breath from his lips will topple the wicked. Each morning he'll pull on sturdy work clothes and boots and build righteousness and faithfulness in the land.

⁶⁻⁹ The wolf will romp with the lamb, the leopard sleep with the kid. Calf and lion will eat from the same trough, and a little child will tend them. Cow and bear will graze the same pasture, their calves and cubs grow up together, and the lion eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will crawl over rattlesnake dens, the toddler stick his hand down the hole of a serpent. Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill on my holy mountain. The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive, a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide.

¹⁰ On that day, Jesse's Root will be raised high, posted as a rallying banner for the peoples. The nations will all come to him. His headquarters will be glorious.

²⁶⁻²⁸ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her: "Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you."

²⁹⁻³³ She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest.' The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; He will rule Jacob's house forever—no end, ever, to his kingdom."

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest will hover over you; therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God."

³⁶⁻³⁸ "And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

And Mary said, "Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say." Then the angel left her.

Talk together:

- What makes us afraid?
- How does Mary react to the angel? What, exactly, is she afraid of or troubled by?
- What changes Mary's mind? What convinces her to trust this message? From where—or from whom—does she summon her courage?
- What is the relationship between fear and wonder? How do we decipher what types of fear are generative and what types of fear are destructive?
- In the face of fear, when have you been convinced to trust a new calling?
- Where do you see glimpses of Isaiah's vision coming to life?
- What actions can we take today to help bring this prophecy into fruition for the generations that come after us?

Pray together:

Holy God, stir up your power within us that in this time, we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, our Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life. By your Holy Spirit, open our eyes and ears and fill our hearts and minds with the mysteries of your ancient love. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Bless one another: "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."

Resources Used:

Connections
Disciplines, The Upper Room
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year C
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal