

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, December 11, 2022)

Share:

When we get caught up in the chaos of the season

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

At the end of a long rough day

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

When darkness fills the sky, and it feels so cold outside

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

In times of sorrow, when life has you down

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

When we witness injustice

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

As Christmas draws near

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

Read these words from a song

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn!

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold, the child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,

he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet, fills the earth with its ringing.

Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems rolls to shatter all hate and violence.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;

love be our song and love our prayer, and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Read this scripture from worship:

Isaiah 35:1-10, *The Message*

¹⁻² Wilderness and desert will sing joyously, the badlands will celebrate and flower—Like the crocus in spring, bursting into blossom, a symphony of song and color. Mountain glories of Lebanon—a gift. Awesome Carmel, stunning Sharon—gifts. GOD's resplendent glory, fully on display. GOD awesome, GOD majestic.

³⁻⁴ Energize the limp hands, strengthen the rubbery knees. Tell fearful souls, “Courage! Take heart! GOD is here, right here, on his way to put things right and redress all wrongs. He's on his way! He'll save you!”

⁵⁻⁷ Blind eyes will be opened, deaf ears unstopped, lame men and women will leap like deer, the voiceless break into song. Springs of water will burst out in the wilderness, streams flow in the desert. Hot sands will become a cool oasis, thirsty ground a splashing fountain. Even lowly jackals will have water to drink, and barren grasslands flourish richly.

8-10 There will be a highway called the Holy Road. No one rude or rebellious is permitted on this road. It's for GOD's people exclusively—impossible to get lost on this road. Not even fools can get lost on it. No lions on this road, no dangerous wild animals—nothing and no one dangerous or threatening. Only the redeemed will walk on it. The people GOD has ransomed will come back on this road. They'll sing as they make their way home to Zion, unfading halos of joy encircling their heads, welcomed home with gifts of joy and gladness as all sorrows and sighs scurry into the night.

Matthew 1:18-25, *The Message*

18-19 The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they enjoyed their wedding night, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.

20-23 While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves'—because he will save his people from their sins." This would bring the prophet's embryonic revelation to full term: Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; they will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us").

24-25 Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

Talk together:

- What would have happened if Joseph wasn't open to the divine presence entering into his dreams? How can you invite God into your dreams like Joseph?
- What options do you see, which God is calling you to look beyond, for a better way?
- What choices can you make each day to bring forth God's Holy Way?
- How will we, as a community of believers, choose to pass on our courageous faith and joy to future generations?

Pray together:

Gracious Lord, our joy is found in you, for not only did you enter into this world, but you became the hope of the world. From the cradle to the cross, you invite us to share in your victory. This is the fountain from which our joy flows. In Jesus' name 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