

“TAKE 10 - Worship While Away” (Sunday, June 7, 2026)

Share:

We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world,

And so, we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life.

We gather here as people who live in the world and yet,

We gather as people who have been called to see the world from a different viewpoint.

God has called us together; God has called us to be part of a community.

God challenges us to bloom in this time, to grow, to expand.

In this time together,

May God open our hearts, minds, ears, and eyes,

Causing us to see more deeply and to love more widely, helping us to live in the world while still offering a challenge to the ways of the world.

May we bloom in this time of worship.

Read these words from a hymn:

For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,

silent growth while we are sleeping,

future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

In our world-wide task of caring

for the hungry and despairing,

in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,

for the truths that still confound us,

most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Read this scripture from worship:

Galatians 5:1, 13-25, The Message

¹Christ has set us free to live a free life. So, take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you. ¹³⁻¹⁵ It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then? ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are contrary to each other, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the

Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence? ¹⁹⁻²¹ It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom. ²²⁻²³ But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. ²³⁻²⁴ Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified. ²⁵⁻²⁶ Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.

Matthew 9:9-13, *The Message*

⁹ Passing along, Jesus saw a man at his work collecting taxes. His name was Matthew. Jesus said, "Come along with me." Matthew stood up and followed him.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and misfits?"

¹²⁻¹³ Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

Talk Together:

- ✓ Where do we witness creation blooming around us?
- ✓ How can that blooming speak to our growth as Christians and as a community of faith?
- ✓ What are some things that hold you back from the fruit God wants to grow in your life?
- ✓ What are you doing to keep in step with God's Spirit?
- ✓ What do you need to do this week to keep in better step with God's Spirit?

Pray together:

God of all, thank you for your many blessings. Your mercies are new every morning, your grace is sufficient, and you remain present in times of trouble. Your words alone can heal us, your love saves us, and your name makes us whole. Revive our faith, resurrect our hope, and renew our commitment to love one another, that we may offer you gratitude. Amen.