

"TAKE 10 - Worship While Away" (Sunday, October 18, 2026)

Share:

In this place,
**friends and strangers meet, the broken are mended,
and the weary welcomed.**
In this moment,
the ordinary becomes miraculous, and life is on pause.
This is God's time.
In this sanctuary,
God's goodness is revealed. Our doors open with kindness.
Our lives join together.

Read these words from a hymn:

Give Thanks, O Christian People

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for workers of our day
who heed the call to service and make it their life's way
to go to feed the hungry, to tend to those in need,
to work for equal justice, till all God's folk are freed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for leaders of our years
who live to share with others our joy when Christ appears,
to teach the ones who seek light, to guide the faltering feet,
to lead the followers forward our living Lord to meet.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord,
who live each day believing in God's eternal Word:
to share Christ's love in living, to witness with each deed,
to use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for life in fellowship
with all who trust our Savior their serving to equip:
to ease another's burdens, to cope in joy and stress,
to magnify God's message and Christ's great love confess.**

Read this scripture from worship:

Exodus 33:12-23, *The Message*

¹²⁻¹³ Moses said to God, "Look, you tell me, 'Lead this people,' but you don't let me know whom you're going to send with me. You tell me, 'I know you well and you are special to me.' If I am so special to you, let me in on your plans. That way, I will continue being special to you. Don't forget, this is *your* people, your responsibility."

¹⁴ God said, "My presence will go with you. I'll see the journey to the end."

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Moses said, "If your presence doesn't take the lead here, call this trip off right now. How else will it be known that you're with me in this, with me and your people? Are you traveling with us or not? How else will we know that we're special, I and your people, among all other people on this planet Earth?"

¹⁷ God said to Moses: "All right. Just as you say; this also I will do, for I know you well and you are special to me. I know you by name."

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please. Let me see your Glory."

¹⁹ God said, “I will make my Goodness pass right in front of you; I’ll call out the name, God, right before you. I’ll treat well whomever I want to treat well and I’ll be kind to whomever I want to be kind.”

²⁰ God continued, “But you may not see my face. No one can see me and live.”

²¹⁻²³ God said, “Look, here is a place right beside me. Put yourself on this rock. When my Glory passes by, I’ll put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with my hand until I’ve passed by. Then I’ll take my hand away and you’ll see my back. But you won’t see my face.”

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, *The Message*

¹ I, Paul, together here with Silas and Timothy, send greetings to the church at Thessalonica, Christians assembled by God the Father and by the Master, Jesus Christ. God’s amazing grace be with you! God’s robust peace!

²⁻⁵ Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you’re in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn’t just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions.

⁵⁻⁶ You paid careful attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit!—taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble.

⁷⁻¹⁰ Do you know that all over the provinces of both Macedonia and Achaia believers look up to you? The word has gotten around. Your lives are echoing the Master’s Word, not only in the provinces but all over the place. The news of your faith in God is out. We don’t even have to say anything anymore—you’re the message! People come up and tell us how you received us with open arms, how you deserted the dead idols of your old life so you could embrace and serve God, the true God. They marvel at how expectantly you await the arrival of his Son, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescued us from certain doom.

Talk Together:

- When was the last time you received or wrote a thank you note? To whom/from whom? How did it make you feel?
- What specific verbal “thank you” recently brightened or lifted your day?
- What was the apostle Paul’s thank you to the Thessalonians?
- What does it mean to be an “imitator of Christ?” Who has influenced your life by the way that person “imitates” Christ, and how?
- What needs to happen within you to help you become an imitator of Christ?
- How do you show the world how to live?

Pray together:

God of goodness, we thank you for choosing us. Teach us your good news, that we might be brought to life: every blessing we receive and every kindness we encounter is your Spirit whispering grace. Encourage and empower us to share that grace and good news with others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.