

"TAKE 10 - Worship While Away" (Sunday, February 8, 2026)

Share:

God calls us to come out and not be hidden away.

Let our light shine in our homes.

God calls us to ask for help and God will say "Here I am".

Let our light shine in our church.

God calls us to help those in need; feed, clothe, and house the afflicted.

Let our light shine in our community.

God calls us to be salt of the earth and light of the world.

Let our light shine in our world.

Read these words from a hymn:

A little bit of salt will quickly show its worth;
A little bit of faithfulness will change the earth.
God, make us worth our salt – a church that's glad to be
The change that you desire in each community.

A lamp that's in a house gives safety, warmth and light;
It's set upon a table where it shines so bright.
God, make your church a light that bravely takes a stand
To bring your love and justice into all the land.

A garden is a place where so much beauty grows,
Where flowers bloom and food is raised and water flows.
When worship leads us out to care for the oppressed,
O God, you say we're like a garden at its best.

When worship leads us out to love and serve the poor,
To welcome in the immigrant at our own door,
O God, then we'll be called "repairers of the breach,"
And we your church will be "restorers of the streets."

It's tempting to remain well-hidden, quiet, bland –
Yet, God, you make us salt and light to change this land.
You send us out to love, to build and to repair,
Till peace and justice flourish here and everywhere.

Read this scripture from worship:

Isaiah 58:1-12, *The Message*

¹⁻³ "Shout! A full-throated shout! Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout!
Tell my people what's wrong with their lives, face my family Jacob with their sins!
They're busy, busy, busy at worship, and love studying all about me. To all
appearances they're a nation of right-living people—law-abiding, God-honoring.
They ask me, 'What's the right thing to do?' and love having me on their side.
But they also complain, 'Why do we fast and you don't look our way? Why do we
humble ourselves and you don't even notice?'

³⁻⁵ “Well, here’s why: “The bottom line on your ‘fast days’ is profit. You drive your employees much too hard. You fast, but at the same time you bicker and fight.

You fast, but you swing a mean fist. The kind of fasting you do won’t get your prayers off the ground. Do you think this is the kind of fast day I’m after: a day to show off humility? To put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black?

Do you call *that* fasting, a fast day that I, God, would like?

⁶⁻⁹ “This is the kind of fast day I’m after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I’m interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families.

Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once.

Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage.

Then when you pray, God will answer. You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, ‘Here I am.’

⁹⁻¹² “If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people’s sins, if you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—firm muscles, strong bones. You’ll be like a well-watered garden,

a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You’ll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.

Matthew 5:13-16, *The Message*

¹³ “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?

You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Talk Together:

- Jesus reminds us that we should live our lives in a way that points people to God, not us. How can you put that into daily practice?
- If you are committed to listening for God’s call and following Jesus, in what ways do you need to change when you walk out the church doors?
- Where do you see hatred and how will you speak out with love?

Pray together:

O God, open my eyes to see the world through your compassion. Open my mind to understand the world through your wisdom. Open my heart to receive the world through your love. Help me to be salt of the earth and light to the world, as I follow Jesus. Amen.