

"TAKE 10"- Worship While Away! (Sunday, March 30, 2025)

Share

If God is a painter,

**let us be the brush.**

If God is a musician,

**let us be the song.**

If God is an architect,

**let us be the tools. Let us be the hands. Let us be the builders.**

But if God is a shepherd, who never stops seeking,

**let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel.**

Our God is never far away.

**Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.**

Read these words from a song..... Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Read this scripture from worship..... Luke 15:1-7

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Talk Together:

- What are times in your life that felt like wilderness?
- What does wilderness feel like? Bodily? Spiritually? Physically?
- When is a time that you felt far from God?
- What makes you feel closer to God?

Pray together:

Loving God, we give you thanks for your words of hope to us. You promise us that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; the old passes away and a new life is possible. In these days of chaos and fear, we cling to the possibilities of life with you: that hearts can be turned, people can be reconciled, and redemption can spring forth from the most unlikely places.

Ground us in these truths of the gospel, O God, that our hearts might be open and loving, compassionate and generous. Guard us from despair and grow within us strong and sustaining hope for the future of wellbeing you imagine for all creation.

Merciful God, you invite us not only to receive your grace, but to share it with others. Show us how to reflect your mercy in our individual lives, and in our life together. Help us to care for the most vulnerable in our communities with love that listens, responds and builds partnerships. Draw us into your redeeming work of creating more just systems and structures in our world. Commit us to ways of living together that provide all with what they need, rather than enriching some while others go without necessities of shelter and safety.

We pray for the work of this congregation. Bless our efforts to be your people of peace in a world obsessed with destruction and revenge. And we pray for the work of our mission partners. Give them the resources they need to offer the critical services they provide. And as the landscape of social services is destabilized by governmental changes, watch over their employees as well as the people they serve.

God of justice, we pray for our nation in turmoil. Turn the hearts of those in power toward those they have been elected to serve. Give them ears to hear the suffering of those who cannot make ends meet and those whose lives have been upended by job cuts and funding freezes. Grant leaders at every level of government wisdom and discernment for the road ahead. Bring order out of chaos, O God, and draw us together for the good of all people and the world you so love. Healer of our every ill, we pray for those in our community who need your care this day. Soothe the nerves of the anxious and lift the spirits of the depressed. Comfort those who sit in the heavy fog of grief. Energize those who are weighed down by burdens of care. Bring healing in body, mind and soul to those who are sick and recovering.

We name before you now in the quiet of our hearts all we know who need your healing mercies... Surround us with your steadfast love, O Lord. When we are afraid, remind us to turn to you. When we don't know what to do, animate us by your Spirit. Draw us close to you and close to one another in relationships that nurture our souls and show us the way. We pray all these things in Christ's name and as he taught us: "Our Father..."

Amen

Resources Used:

Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal

Sanctified Art

Presbyterian Outlook