

"TAKE 10 - Worship While Away" (Sunday, November 9, 2025)

Share:

We gather in Abundance, away from the rush and the race, to celebrate the generous spirit that sings, without fear, "may all have enough."

We gather to live into the work of God's call.

We gather in Grace, awake to the sin of despair and degradation, awake to the chance to be more and to the possibilities seeded within.

We gather to grow: to change moment-by-moment, in grace again-and-again.

We gather in Hope, ready to do more than talk, ready to make change one letter, one meal, one home, one gift, and one hand at a time; ready to live and move and be; ready to be the change God calls us to be.

We gather to give of our time and our talents, our hopes and our energy. We gather to be God's people.

So come now, let us worship together.

Let us taste and see that our God is good.

Read these words from a hymn:

God Bless Your Church with Strength

**God, bless Your church with strength! Wherever we may be,
Up-build Your servants as we work in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar
Through open skies, to sing the praise of Christ whom we adore.**

**God, bless Your church with life! May all our branches thrive,
Unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.
From You, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow;
Sustain us in our mission, Lord, Your love and peace to show.**

**God, bless Your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,
May we in chaos shine to light a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share,
In humbleness O may we walk, assured our God is there!**

Read this scripture from worship:

Psalm 34:1-8, The Message

¹I bless God every chance I get; my lungs expand with his praise.

²I live and breathe God; if things aren't going well, hear this and be happy:

³Join me in spreading the news; together let's get the word out.

⁴God met me more than half-way, he freed me from my anxious fears.

⁵Look at him; give him your warmest smile. Never hide your feelings from him.

⁶When I was desperate, I called out, and God got me out of a tight spot.

⁷God's angel sets up a circle of protection around us while we pray.

⁸Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see—how good God is.

Blessed are you who run to him.

John 15:1-15, *The Message*

¹⁻³ “I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

⁴ “Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

⁵⁻⁸ “I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

⁹⁻¹⁰ “I’ve loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you’ll remain intimately at home in my love. That’s what I’ve done—kept my Father’s commands and made myself at home in his love.

¹¹⁻¹⁵ “I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I’m no longer calling you servants because servants don’t understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father.

Talk together:

- ✂ Where do you see the grace and goodness of God at work?
- ✂ What does it mean to you to “taste and see” that the Lord is good?
- ✂ What is it like to experience God’s goodness?
- ✂ How are you abiding in, connecting with, and relating to God?
- ✂ What do disciples of Jesus – “branches of the vine” – have to do to bear fruit?
- ✂ What fruit will you seek to bear as a follower of Jesus?
- ✂ How will you “taste and see” and then respond to God’s goodness this week?

Pray together:

Loving God, I come before you today, deeply grateful for the profound truth found in your gospel. You are the True Vine, and I thank you for the invitation to abide in you. Lord, I desire to remain connected to your life-giving presence. Just as the branches of a vine draw sustenance from it, I recognize that my spiritual nourishment stems from my relationship with you. As your branch, I understand that I cannot bear fruit on my own. So, I ask that you help me to remain closely intertwined with you. I yearn for the life that only You can provide. Lord, empower me to yield my will to yours, for I recognize that apart from you, I can do nothing. Teach me to lean wholly on your strength and understanding. Through Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.