

## “TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, March 26, 2023)

### Share:

We come to hear the story of God's faithfulness to past generations.

**But we also look to the future as well as the past.**

The God who was with our ancestors is with us as well.

**Then we can go forward in hope. For whatever else fails, God remains faithful.**

Let us run the good race, let us continue faithfully to the finish line!

**Let us keep the faith -- not just for the crown that waits for us, but for Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who deserves no less from us.**

Let us gather together to worship as we lift high the cross of Christ!

### Read these words from a song

*Fight the Good Fight*

Fight the good fight with all thy might. Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be, thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up thine eyes and seek Christ's face.

Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide. God's boundless mercy will provide.

Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove, Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near. God changeth not, and thou art dear.

Only believe, and thou shalt see, that Christ is all in all to thee.

### Read this scripture from worship:

Isaiah 52:7-10, *The Message*

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news,

Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times, announcing salvation,

telling Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Voices! Listen! Your scouts are shouting, thunderclap shouts, shouting in joyful unison.

They see with their own eyes GOD coming back to Zion.

Break into song! Boom it out, ruins of Jerusalem:

"GOD has comforted his people! He's redeemed Jerusalem!"

GOD has rolled up his sleeves. All the nations can see his holy, muscled arm.

Everyone, from one end of the earth to the other, sees him at work, doing his salvation work.

Hebrews 12:1-2, *The Message*

<sup>1-3</sup> Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on *Jesus*, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's *there*, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

Talk together:

- How do you feel when “running?”
- What keeps you going as you persevere?
- Who makes up your personal faith “Hall of Fame?”
- What does it mean to run a race surrounded by witnesses?
- How do you keep Jesus in your sight?
- How will you run the race of faith this week?

Pray together:

Lord, let me hear the voices of the huge cloud of witnesses around me. Let me hear them praise you, for your witnesses reflect your light on the world. I pray that through my faith, I will be able to throw off everything that stands in the way. Help me throw off the sin that holds me so tightly and let me accept the grace you offer so freely. Let me run the race of faith, following in the footsteps of your Son. Keep my eyes focused on Jesus, in whom my faith is perfected. Fill me with the joy of your witnesses who forever sing to your glory. And Lord, give me a cheering section, and make me a cheering section for others, as you speak your word of blessing to me, and I offer that word of blessing to others. Through Christ our Savior, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who endured the cross for our sake, I pray. Amen.

Bless one another: "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."

Resources Used:

*Disciplines, The Upper Room*  
*The Message*  
*Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion*  
*Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal*