

“TAKE 10 - Worship While Away” (Sunday, October 11, 2026)

Share:

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone, for the Lord is near.

Today we choose to rejoice. Today we choose to worship and give thanks.

Do not worry about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

We turn our hearts away from anxiety and place our trust in God’s care.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

We open our minds to whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable.

Finally, whatever is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things, and the God of peace will be with you.

We come to worship God, who alone is worthy of our praise.

Read these words from a hymn:

Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

[Refrain] **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise, send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days. [refrain]

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go, from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe: [refrain]

At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest; the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. [refrain]

Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. [refrain]

Read this scripture from worship:

Exodus 32:1-14, *The Message*

¹When the people realized that Moses was taking forever in coming down off the mountain, they rallied around Aaron and said, “Do something. Make gods for us who will lead us. That Moses, the man who got us out of Egypt—who knows what’s happened to him?”

²⁻⁴ So Aaron told them, “Take off the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters and bring them to me.” They all did it; they removed the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from their hands and cast it in the form of a calf, shaping it with an engraving tool.

The people responded with enthusiasm: “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up from Egypt!”

⁵ Aaron, taking in the situation, built an altar before the calf.

Aaron then announced, “Tomorrow is a feast day to God!”

⁶ Early the next morning, the people got up and offered Whole-Burnt-Offerings and brought Peace-Offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink and then began to party. It turned into a wild party!

⁷⁻⁸ God spoke to Moses, “Go! Get down there! Your people whom you brought up from the land of Egypt have fallen to pieces. In no time at all they’ve turned away from the way I commanded them: They made a molten calf and worshiped it. They’ve sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are the gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt!’”

⁹⁻¹⁰ God said to Moses, “I look at this people—oh! what a stubborn, hard-headed people! Let me alone now, give my anger free reign to burst into flames and incinerate them. But I’ll make a great nation out of you.”

¹¹⁻¹³ Moses tried to calm his God down. He said, “Why, God, would you lose your temper with your people? Why, you brought them out of Egypt in a tremendous demonstration of power and strength. Why let the Egyptians say, ‘He had it in for them—he brought them out so he could kill them in the mountains, wipe them right off the face of the Earth.’ Stop your anger. Think twice about bringing evil against your people! Think of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants to whom you gave your word, telling them ‘I will give you many children, as many as the stars in the sky, and I’ll give this land to your children as their land forever.’”

¹⁴ And God did think twice. He decided not to do the evil he had threatened against his people

Philippians 4:1-9, *The Message*

My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don’t waver. Stay on track, steady in God.

² I urge Euodia and Syntyche to iron out their differences and make up. God doesn’t want his children holding grudges.

³ And, oh, yes, Syzygus, since you’re right there to help them work things out, do your best with them. These women worked for the Message hand in hand with Clement and me, and with the other veterans—worked as hard as any of us. Remember, their names are also in the Book of Life.

⁴⁻⁵ Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, *revel* in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you’re on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

⁶⁻⁷ Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

⁸⁻⁹ Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

Talk Together:

- What caused the Israelites to go astray? What is hard and disturbing about their story? What in their story is our story?
- When have you or has our church gotten it wrong, forgetting and forming idols?
- What does the reality of rejoicing always in all situations look like in your life?
- What things will you think about this week?
- How will you start living the life you imagine and these things that you think about?

Pray together:

God of Peace, grant us your breath and draw us into stillness, that we may come to know that you are holding onto us, carrying us through the whirlwind and into the bright sun of a magnificent new day. Amen.