

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, November 20, 2022)

Share:

God has looked favorably on all of God’s people and has redeemed all of creation.

God has given us a mighty Savior, the Lord whose reign we celebrate.

We gather to offer our thanks and praise to almighty God.

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty, who reigns forevermore!

Let us worship God!

Read these words from a song

Blest Be the God of Israel

*Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.*

*The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise to bring the people peace.*

*God from the house of David a child of grace has given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.*

*Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.*

*On those who live in darkness the sun begins to rise;
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner’s eyes,
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
Oh bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!*

Read this scripture from worship:

Jeremiah 23:1-6, *The Message*

¹⁻⁴ “Doom to the shepherd-leaders who butcher and scatter my sheep!” GOD’s Decree. “So here is what I, GOD, Israel’s God, say to the shepherd-leaders who misled my people: ‘You’ve scattered my sheep. You’ve driven them off. You haven’t kept your eye on them. Well, let me tell you, I’m keeping my eye on *you*, keeping track of your criminal behavior. I’ll take over and gather what’s left of my sheep, gather them in from all the lands where I’ve driven them. I’ll bring them back where they belong, and they’ll recover and flourish. I’ll set shepherd-leaders over them who will take good care of them. They won’t live in fear or panic anymore. All the lost sheep rounded up!’ GOD’s Decree.

⁵⁻⁶ “Time’s coming”—GOD’s Decree—“when I’ll establish a truly righteous David-Branch, A ruler who knows how to rule justly. He’ll make sure of justice and keep people united. In his time Judah will be secure again and Israel will live in safety. This is the name they’ll give him: ‘GOD-Who-Puts-Everything-Right.’”

Colossians 1:11-20, *The Message*

As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do *your* work. We pray that you’ll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.

¹³⁻¹⁴ God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He’s set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much, the Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating.

¹⁵⁻¹⁸ We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him

and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so expansive, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

Luke 1:68-79, *The Message*

Then Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he came and set his people free.
He set the power of salvation in the center of our lives, and in the very house of David his servant, just as he promised long ago through the preaching of his holy prophets:
Deliverance from our enemies and every hateful hand; mercy to our fathers, as he remembers to do what he said he'd do, what he swore to our father Abraham—a clean rescue from the enemy camp, so we can worship him without a care in the world, made holy before him as long as we live. And you, my child, "Prophet of the Highest," will go ahead of the Master to prepare his ways, present the offer of salvation to his people, the forgiveness of their sins. Through the heartfelt mercies of our God, God's Sunrise will break in upon us, shining on those in the darkness, those sitting in the shadow of death, then showing us the way, one foot at a time, down the path of peace.

Talk together:

- When have you, either intentionally or unintentionally, been silent?
- What caused you to break your silence?
- What do you see when you look at Jesus?
- How are you witnessing to Christ as King, Lord, and Savior?
- Where can we practice "kingdom living" this week?
- What is the good news you will take with you into a new week?

Pray together:

God of a new day, at the dawning of the first day, you spoke creation into being and declared it good. You crafted each flower and vegetable and bird of the air and beast of the land, and there at all of it was Jesus Christ. We give thanks for the dawning of this day and pray we might know your holy presence in all we see and do. Guard our hearts, minds, spirits, and bodies that we, too, might sing the goodness of creation and remember your call to be good stewards of it all. Through Jesus Christ who reigns, we 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:

Connections
Disciplines, The Upper Room
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year C
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal