

“TAKE 10 - Worship While Away” (Sunday, August 23, 2026)

Share:

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.

From generation to generation, we will proclaim your greatness and sing of your steadfast love!

Come, let us sing, O Church, in joy; come, let us join, O Church, in song!

Come, let us worship our living God as one family of many generations, united by Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Read these words from a hymn:

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne, we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

Read this scripture from worship:

Genesis 17:1-8, *The Message*

17 ¹⁻² When Abram was ninety-nine years old, GOD showed up and said to him, “I am The Strong God, live entirely before me, live to the hilt! I’ll make a covenant between us and I’ll give you a huge family.”

³⁻⁸ Overwhelmed, Abram fell flat on his face.

Then God said to him, “This is my covenant with you: You’ll be the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, meaning that ‘I’m making you the father of many nations.’ I’ll make you a father of fathers—I’ll make nations from you, kings will issue from you. I’m establishing my covenant between me and you, a covenant that includes your descendants, a covenant that goes on and on and on, a covenant that commits me to be your God and the God of your descendants. And I’m giving you and your descendants this land where you’re now just camping, this whole country of Canaan, to own forever. And I’ll be their God.”

11¹⁻² The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd.

³ By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word, what we see created by what we don't see.

12¹⁻³ 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:

- When did you first experience having "roots and wings?"
- How do the scriptures read this morning witness to having roots and wings?
- How does the covenant promise to Abraham and Sarah continue through the generations?
- What guidance is the great cloud of witnesses giving us today?
- How do the roots and branches of Opequon Church make a difference in our lives and within our community?
- What will we tell generations today and generations to come?

Pray together:

Thank you, Lord, for the faithful ancestors and family members who walked with you and planted seeds of truth. As recipients of their legacy, help us to live with integrity today, so our lives reflect your goodness and love. Draw the hearts of our children and grandchildren to yourself, nurturing them in the faith and guiding their steps. May your steadfast love and grace continue from generation to generation, letting our descendants praise your name forever. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.