“TAKE 10 - Worship While Away” (Sunday, November 8, 2026)

Share:

We gather for worship today to celebrate our gifts.
We are celebrating the gifts we give to this church, the pledges we are making for the upcoming year.
We gather for worship today to celebrate our community.
We are celebrating the love and support that we give to one another; the constant quest that we are on to be united by God’s grace.
We gather for worship today to celebrate our future.
We are celebrating a future full of outreach, a future full of service, a future full of worship, and a future full of growth. We are celebrating a future with hope.
We gather for worship today to celebrate our visions.
We are celebrating the visions of those who have come before us, the visions that brought us to where we are today, and the visions that we see today for the future.
Let us gather in celebration!
Let us worship God!

Read these words from a hymn: *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought*

As those of old their first-fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.

A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Read this scripture from worship: Joshua 24:14-24, *The Message*

14 “So now: Fear GOD. Worship him in total commitment. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped on the far side of The River (the Euphrates) and in Egypt. You, worship GOD.
15 “If you decide that it’s a bad thing to worship GOD, then choose a god you’d rather serve—and do it today. Choose one of the gods your ancestors worshiped from the country beyond The River, or one of the gods of the Amorites, on whose land you’re now living. As for me and my family, we’ll worship GOD.”
16 The people answered, “We’d never forsake God! Never! We’d never leave God to worship other gods.
17-18 “God is our God! He brought up our ancestors from Egypt and from slave conditions. He did all those great signs while we watched. He has kept his eye on us all

along the roads we've traveled and among the nations we've passed through. Just for us he drove out all the nations, Amorites and all, who lived in the land.
"Count us in: We too are going to worship God. He's our God."
19-20 Then Joshua told the people: "You can't do it; you're not able to worship God. He is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He won't put up with your fooling around and sinning. When you leave God and take up the worship of foreign gods, he'll turn right around and come down on you hard. He'll put an end to you—and after all the good he has done for you!"
21 But the people told Joshua: "No! No! We worship God!"
22 And so Joshua addressed the people: "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen God for yourselves—to worship him."
And they said, "We are witnesses."
23 Joshua said, "Now get rid of all the foreign gods you have with you. Say an unqualified Yes to God, the God of Israel."
24 The people answered Joshua, "We will worship God. What he says, we'll do."

2 Corinthians 9:6-15, *The Message*

6-7 Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. 8-11 God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, "He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out." This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.
12-15 Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ. You show your gratitude through your generous offerings to your needy brothers and sisters, and really toward everyone. Meanwhile, moved by the extravagance of God in your lives, they'll respond by praying for you in passionate intercession for whatever you need. Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough!

Talk Together:

- What does "now is the time" say to you?
- Why do you think Paul uses the farming terminology of "sowing" and "reaping" to explain financial stewardship? What does it mean practically to sow "sparingly" versus "bountifully"?
- How does changing our view of giving from a somber obligation to a joyful privilege alter our response to ministry needs?
- How does acknowledging God as the *origin* of our resources protect us from the false belief that our wealth is purely self-made?

- How will your generosity and commitment to this church and its mission be salted with your gifts of time, talent, and treasure?
- What is the indescribable gift, and how does it serve as both the foundation and the motivation for Christian giving?
- When have you had to actively trust God's provision while making a sacrifice of radical generosity?
- How will you and your household serve the Lord this week?

Pray together:

Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it. You have entrusted us with gifts – time, talent, energy, money – and asked us to use them to build your kingdom. With thanks and praise we respond to your call. We bring the gifts you have given, returning your generosity, paying it forward. We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our dollars and our hours. We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love and serve wherever you call. We ask your blessing on your church as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul. Bless all our gifts, our investment in your future, that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love. Amen.