

## “TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, October 15, 2017)

**Share:** You have been called to the banquet; this is the feast.  
You have been summoned to the wedding; this is the feast of life and light.  
From the streets and the byways, God has invited us. We have come to  
the banquet that has no end. Alleluia! Amen!

**Read these words from a hymn today:** *Come to the Banquet*

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you. Though you maybe have no money,  
though you maybe feel unworthy, in your strength or in your weakness, you are  
welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you. Whether, you've been lost or faithful,  
whether you've been wise or wasteful, here's a place of rest and grace, and you are  
welcome, come.

**Read this scripture from worship:** Matthew 22:1-14 (*The Message*)

22 <sup>1-3</sup> Jesus responded by telling still more stories. “God’s kingdom,” he said, “is like a king who  
threw a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out servants to call in all the invited guests. And  
they wouldn’t come!

<sup>4</sup> “He sent out another round of servants, instructing them to tell the guests, ‘Look, everything is  
on the table, the prime rib is ready for carving. Come to the feast!’

<sup>5-7</sup> “They only shrugged their shoulders and went off, one to weed his garden, another to work in  
his shop. The rest, with nothing better to do, beat up on the messengers and then killed them. The  
king was outraged and sent his soldiers to destroy those thugs and level their city.

<sup>8-10</sup> “Then he told his servants, ‘We have a wedding banquet all prepared but no guests. The ones  
I invited weren’t up to it. Go out into the busiest intersections in town and invite anyone you find  
to the banquet.’ The servants went out on the streets and rounded up everyone they laid eyes on,  
good and bad, regardless. And so the banquet was on—every place filled.

<sup>11-13</sup> “When the king entered and looked over the scene, he spotted a man who wasn’t properly  
dressed. He said to him, ‘Friend, how dare you come in here looking like that!’ The man was  
speechless. Then the king told his servants, ‘Get him out of here—fast. Tie him up and ship him  
to hell. And make sure he doesn’t get back in.’

<sup>14</sup> “That’s what I mean when I say, ‘Many get invited; only a few make it.’”

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- When were you recently invited to “a feast?” How did you respond? How do we feel when we issue an invitation and people do not respond?
- When have you felt God’s hospitality extended to you?
- How do we respond to God’s invitation/call?
- When and how do we forsake the living God and seek after other gods?
- How do you feel when you are again embraced by God’s welcome?

Pray together:

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out life with such abundance that death cannot claim the triumph over your universe. Call us again to your banquet where we may receive your holy food, and be transformed into a people of righteousness and peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say. "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself this week."

Resources Used: *Glory to God*, The Presbyterian Hymnal  
*Call to Worship*, Year A, Lectionary Aids for 2016-2017