

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, November 12, 2017)

Share: It is time to wake up, for God is about to surprise us.
It is time to prepare, for God's love is about to change the world.
It is time to get ready, for God needs us to proclaim the good news.
It is time to start planning, for God's invitation will fill our church.
It is time to worship, for God is here now!
We will worship and witness together!

Read these words from a hymn today: *Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord*
Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart. O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name. Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart. In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!
Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart. O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name. Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart. In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Read this scripture from worship: Joshua 24:1-3, 14-24 (*The Message*)
24 ¹⁻² Joshua called together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He called in the elders, chiefs, judges, and officers. They presented themselves before God. Then Joshua addressed all the people:
³ “This is what GOD, the God of Israel, says:
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."

Talk together, responding to these questions:

In our busy world, daily encounters with delay are sometimes difficult to accept. How can we know God's presence with us, remaining steady and at peace while extending God's hospitality and love?

When do we say to God, "Count me in!"?

How is that going for us?

What gets in our way?

What are we doing for God?

How can we worship God and be stronger witnesses in the world?

Pray together: I give thanks for the gift of life this day and for the privilege of loving you by serving others. Give me an opportunity to grow in right relationship with you by promoting justice in the world today through my life, my choices, and my witness. Help me to say to God, "Count me in!" Through Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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 as a child of God."

Resources Used: *Glory to God*, The Presbyterian Hymnal
Feasting on the Word, Year A, A Worship Companion