

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, October 29, 2017)

Share: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
In you, we come home – to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved.
We dwell in you.
Before the mountains were born, before you delivered the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting future, you are God.
In you, we are home – we dream, we flourish, we fade, we rejoice.
We dwell in you.

Read these words from a hymn today: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*
A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe, doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he. Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

Read this scripture from worship: Matthew 22:34-46 (*The Message*)

³⁴⁻³⁶ When the Pharisees heard how he had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: “Teacher, which command in God’s Law is the most important?”

³⁷⁻⁴⁰ Jesus said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.”

David’s Son and Master

⁴¹⁻⁴² As the Pharisees were regrouping, Jesus caught them off balance with his own test question: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said, “David’s son.”

⁴³⁻⁴⁵ Jesus replied, “Well, if the Christ is David’s son, how do you explain that David, under inspiration, named Christ his ‘Master’? God said to my Master, “Sit here at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.”

“Now if David calls him ‘Master,’ how can he at the same time be his son?”

⁴⁶ That stumped them, literalists that they were. Unwilling to risk losing face again in one of these public verbal exchanges, they quit asking questions for good.

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- What does it mean to you that God is “our dwelling place?”
- How do you/we dwell in God?
- What changes might come into your life as a result of taking to heart and practicing the two commands of Jesus?

Ponder this week what it might look like never to judge unjustly, not to defer to the rich or excuse the poor, not to gain from others' losses, neither to hate nor to avoid facing others' failings, to seek no revenge, and to hold no grudges.

Pray together:

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God. Carry us today in your steadfast love that we may rejoice and be glad all our days, living life fully without fear of the end. Show us how to love our neighbors and ourselves, and teach us to delight in your law so that we will know the way of gratitude and thanksgiving. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. 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