

## TAKE 10"- Worship While Away! (Sunday, March 11, 2018)

### Share:

Look to the Lord your God and live!

Give thanks to the Holy One, our Savior.

For though we once were dead to sin, now by the grace of God, we live!

### Read these words from a hymn today: *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, Weak and wounded, sick and sore;

Jesus ready stands to save you, Full of pity, love and pow'r.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;

In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;

True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh.

### Read this scripture from worship: John 3:14-21 (The Message)

<sup>1-2</sup> There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we all know you're a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren't in on it."

<sup>3</sup> Jesus said, "You're absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it's not possible to see what I'm pointing to—to God's kingdom."

<sup>4</sup> "How can anyone," said Nicodemus, "be born who has already been born and grown up? You can't re-enter your mother's womb and be born again. What are you saying with this 'born-from-above' talk?"

<sup>5-6</sup> Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind-hovering-over-the-water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. When you look at a baby, it's just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can't see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit.

<sup>7-8</sup> "So don't be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be 'born from above'—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it's headed next. That's the way it is with everyone 'born from above' by the wind of God, the Spirit of God."

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus asked, "What do you mean by this? How does this happen?"

<sup>10-12</sup> Jesus said, "You're a respected teacher of Israel and you don't know these basics? Listen carefully. I'm speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by

experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions. If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don't believe me, what use is there in telling you of things you can't see, the things of God?

<sup>13-15</sup> "No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life. <sup>16-18</sup> "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him. <sup>19-21</sup> "This is the crisis we're in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won't come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is."

### Talk together, responding to these questions:

Has anyone ever left a "calling card" in your door? How is Jesus God's calling card?

What are we saved/delivered from? What are we saved/delivered for?

What does the light of God's truth reveal about your life?

Are there parts of your life that you want to hide from God?

What would it be like to live openly, in the light?

### Pray together:

Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you bring salvation to the world. Give me strength to believe in him that I may share in his victory over the power of death and fulfill the purpose for which you have made me. Draw me to your light, that I may avoid the dangers of sin and receive the freedom of your grace in Jesus Christ. 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 and others this week as a child of God."