

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, September 23, 2018)

Share:

Little children, the one who welcomes you – Jesus Christ – is here, with us today.
Little children, young and old, growing and maturing: we welcome one another with love and grace.

Little children, Jesus calls us into the circle of his arms. Come and be blessed.
Little children, seeking and searching, fearful and faithful: we come together knowing that we belong to Jesus and are enfolded in his love.

Read these words from a hymn today: *O Master Let Me Walk with Thee*

O Master, let me walk with thee, in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear, the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move, by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee, in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

Read this scripture from worship: **Matthew 9:30-37 (The Message)**

³⁰⁻³² Leaving there, they went through Galilee. He didn't want anyone to know their whereabouts, for he wanted to teach his disciples. He told them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed to some people who want nothing to do with God. They will murder him. Three days after his murder, he will rise, alive." They didn't know what he was talking about but were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was safe at home, he asked them, "What were you discussing on the road?"

³⁴ The silence was deafening—they had been arguing with one another over who among them was greatest.

³⁵ He sat down and summoned the Twelve. "So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all."

³⁶⁻³⁷ He put a child in the middle of the room. Then, cradling the little one in his arms, he said, "Whoever embraces one of these children as I do embraces me, and far more than me—God who sent me."

Talk together, responding to these questions:

What are we able to easily see? What do we struggle to see?

What gets in the way of our ability to both see/hear and understand?

How do we need to refocus? What helps us refocus?

What examples does Jesus use in calling us to refocus?

Give yourself some moments each day in the coming week to sit quietly with your eyes closed. Visualize Jesus kneeling down, opening his arms, and bringing you close to his heart. Let yourself be a little child who is welcomed. What do you notice? What do you feel?

Pray together:

Gracious God, you give life and, in your Word, it is beautiful. Thank you for this new day. In each coming hour, help me to see beneath the ever-present difficulties and superficial joys into the mysteries that you have set out for your people. Guide me toward those I meet today in a way that welcomes them and, in turn, grants me a welcome, in Jesus' name. 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."