

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, June 23, 2024)

Share:

We all have gifts. We all have something to share.

The world needs what we have to give.

We share what we have. We share who we are.

And we do it all for the glory of God.

All good gifts come from God. Let us worship God with our abundant gifts!

Read these words from a hymn:

Great God of Every Blessing

*Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

Read this scripture from worship:

Proverbs 11:23-26, *The Message*

- ²³ The desires of good people lead straight to the best,
but wicked ambition ends in angry frustration.
²⁴ The world of the generous gets larger and larger;
the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.
²⁵ The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed;
those who help others are helped.
²⁶ Curses on those who drive a hard bargain!
Blessings on all who play fair and square!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15, *The Message*

⁶⁻⁷ Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

⁸⁻¹¹ God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, He throws caution to the winds,
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.
His right-living, right-giving ways
never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows

into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

¹²⁻¹⁵ Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ. You show your gratitude through your generous offerings to your needy brothers and sisters, and really toward everyone. Meanwhile, moved by the extravagance of God in your lives, they'll respond by praying for you in passionate intercession for whatever you need. Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough!

Talk together:

- ✂ What does it mean to be generous?
- ✂ What examples of generosity might you share?
- ✂ How is God generous?
- ✂ What does the apostle Paul say to the Corinthians that resonates with you? That challenges you?
- ✂ How does the practice of generosity shape your faith?
- ✂ How can your generosity help others to flourish?
- ✂ How will you practice generosity this summer?

Pray together

God of sowing and reaping, Gardener supreme, you place us at the center, feed us, equip us, and having provided for us, look to a different harvest – a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others. Help us to open our hands, to let go of grasping, that we too may scatter with hope and generosity, seeds of justice, peace, and joy.

God of sowing and reaping, feed us, prune us, harvest us, that our lives might bring glory to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Resources Used:

Faith Practices, Christian Reformed Church of North America
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal
The Message