

## **“TAKE 10” - Worship While Away! (July 14,2024)**

### Share:

It can be difficult to find and join a new congregation. It can also be hard as a long time to see changes within your church. Remembering is a gift that can help both situations. Remembering can be joyful. We remember good times and special events and people. It can also be sad as we remember things, situations, and people who are no longer here. Sometimes reminding ourselves to remember is overlooked as a tool for situations that require emotional distance or gentle handling.

Here at OPC we use memory in several ways. We remember people and events and use them as a faith-filled foundation for moving forward. We recall God's grace-filled acts from scripture or from our own lives. And we share these memories often and well.

### Read these words from a hymn for Sunday

#### *Count Your Blessings*

1. When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

#### *Refrain:*

Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God has done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
\*Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

2. Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,  
And you will keep singing as the days go by.
3. When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings money cannot buy,  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.
4. So, amid the conflict whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Read this scripture from worship:

Psalm 103:1-4, 8-12, 15-18, 22b

**Psalm 103**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;

<sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>15</sup> The life of mortals is like grass,  
they flourish like a flower of the field;

<sup>16</sup> the wind blows over it and it is gone,  
and its place remembers it no more.

<sup>17</sup> But from everlasting to everlasting  
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,  
and his righteousness with their children's children—

<sup>18</sup> with those who keep his covenant  
and remember to obey his precepts.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- How do you see yourself as part of the Opequon community? What makes OPC your church home?
- Who do you remember as an important part of your life? Who is important to you now?
- What Bible stories are especially meaningful to you?

Pray together:

Let us pray for this church of God, for those who bring encouragement where there is despair; who will bring company where there is loneliness; who will listen where a hard truth must be shared; who will bring change or conversion through kindness; who will speak truth to power; who will bring the gift that makes all the difference. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say: "God's peace be with you, wherever you go this week, and know that God is always with you."