

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, August 25, 2019)

Share: Even when we encounter people who are mean, dishonest, and hateful, we are called to respond with that love which is true and sincere. God calls us to love all people as if they are our sisters and brothers. For God seeks to weave us into one family, tearing down all the barriers between us. No matter how weary we become from our loneliness, our struggles, and our service, God challenges us to be patient, to rejoice, and to never stop praying. Why should we do all these things? Because we are God’s people, called to lives that are different, and which make a difference.

Read these words from a hymn today

O for a World

O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Read this scripture from worship:

Romans 12:9-21 (The Message)

⁹⁻¹⁰ Love from the center of who you are; don’t fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

¹¹⁻¹³ Don’t burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don’t quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they’re happy; share tears when they’re down. Get along with each other; don’t be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don’t be the great somebody.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Don’t hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you’ve got it in you, get along with everybody. Don’t insist on getting even; that’s not for you to do. “I’ll do the judging,” says God. “I’ll take care of it.”

²⁰⁻²¹ Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

Talk together:

- "We choose love" has been our worship theme this summer. Why do you think we chose this theme?
- In many Bibles, this scripture text is entitled, "The Marks of a True Christian." What are the marks described here?
- Why might the apostle Paul have chosen to write this advice in a letter circulated to Christians in the early Church?
- How do we believe, as Christians, we overcome evil?
- How do we hold fast to what is good?
- What can I do each week to show that I choose love? What can I do each day?

Pray together:

God of love, today help us to live peaceably with all. Help us live in genuine love: to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to love you, O God, with our whole heart, mind, and strength. In Jesus' loving name. Amen.

Bless one another: "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."

Resources Used: *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year C*
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal