

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, September 1, 2019)

Share: God calls us to service rather than honor.
God calls us to love the unknown rather than the familiar.
We gather at the table of grace, trusting in the love of Jesus Christ,
Who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Read these words from a hymn today *Come to the Banquet*

*Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.
Though you maybe have no money, though you maybe feel unworthy,
In your strength or in your weakness, you are welcome, come.*

*Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.
See, you are an honored guest, from constant serving you may rest;
So sit you down, be fed and blessed, for you are welcome, come.*

*Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.
Whether, you've been lost or faithful, whether you've been wise or wasteful,
Here's a place of rest and grace, and you are welcome, come.*

Read this scripture from worship: Luke 14:1, 7-14 (The Message)

¹One time when Jesus went for a Sabbath meal with one of the top leaders of the Pharisees, all the guests had their eyes on him, watching his every move.

⁷⁻⁹ He went on to tell a story to the guests around the table. Noticing how each had tried to elbow into the place of honor, he said, “When someone invites you to dinner, don’t take the place of honor. Somebody more important than you might have been invited by the host. Then he’ll come and call out in front of everybody, ‘You’re in the wrong place. The place of honor belongs to this man.’ Red-faced, you’ll have to make your way to the very last table, the only place left.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ “When you’re invited to dinner, go and sit at the last place. Then when the host comes, he may very well say, ‘Friend, come up to the front.’ That will give the dinner guests something to talk about! What I’m saying is, if you walk around with your nose in the air, you’re going to end up flat on your face. But if you’re content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself.”

¹²⁻¹⁴ Then he turned to the host. “The next time you put on a dinner, don’t just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. You’ll be—and experience—a blessing. They won’t be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned—oh, how it will be returned!—at the resurrection of God’s people.”

Talk together:

- Think about tables where you eat, meet, and have conversation. What is important about those tables?
- Where do you sit when you gather with others at the table? Do you ever have to get up and move for others?
- How does your experience of the culture prevent you from fully embracing the call to serve with humility?
- Whom do you invite to your home and our church? Do you invite those who cannot repay you or only those who can?
- Make a list of 5-10 people you would invite to a party. How did you come up with that list?
- Can you think of two people who never get invited to parties? What difference would it make at the party if you invited them? What difference would it make to them if you invited them?

Pray together:

God, in the freshness of the new day, give us clarity of vision so that we might seek the honor of your kingdom rather than the honor of the world. Open our eyes to see the world as you see it. Give us the wisdom to witness your presence in all people. Transform us in love, grow us in our faith, call us to love you with a full heart and to share your promises with all people. Through Christ our Savior, who welcomed all. 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: *Disciplines, The Upper Room*
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year C
Forbid Them Not, Year C
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal