

## "TAKE 10"- Worship While Away! (January 9, 2022)

### Share:

I am with you, says the Lord

**Do not fear.**

I have called you by name.

**Do not fear.**

You are mine.

**Do not be afraid.**

Read these words from a hymn for Sunday:      *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

*Wash, O God, your sons and daughter, newborn creatures of your womb.*

*Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb.*

*Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.*

*Fill, anoint them, send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.*

*Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed.*

*Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.*

*God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares,*

*One with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.*

*O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!*

*To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!*

*We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.*

*By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!*

Read this scripture from worship:

*Isaiah 43:1-7, The Message*

1-4 But now, GOD's Message, the God who made you in the first place, Jacob, the One who got you started, Israel: "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine.

When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end—

Because I am God, your personal God, the Holy of Israel, your Savior. I paid a huge price for you: all of Egypt, with rich Cush and Seba thrown in! That's how much you mean to me! That's how much I love you! I'd sell off the whole world to get you back, trade the creation just for you.

5-7 "So don't be afraid: I'm with you. I'll round up all your scattered children, pull them in from east and west. I'll send orders north and south: 'Send them back. Return my sons from distant lands, my daughters from faraway places. I want them back, every last one who bears my name, every man, woman, and child whom I created for my glory, yes, personally formed and made each one.'"

*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, The Message*

15 The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, "Could this John be the Messiah?"

16-17 But John intervened: "I'm baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

21-22 After all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized. As he was praying, the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit, like a dove descending, came down on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- How essential is water to you throughout the day?
- What part does water play throughout the scriptures?
- What do you imagine in the baptismal scene from Luke's gospel?
- What does it mean to "remember your baptism?"
- How does baptism connect us to one another?
- Who is here to remind you that you are God's beloved?
- How does baptism mark and seal us for life?

Pray together:

Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation. By water and word, you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. 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."

Resources Used:   *Feasting on the Word, Year C*  
                         *Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal*  
                         *The Message*, by Rev. Eugene Peterson