

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, September 26, 2021)

Share:

We will walk this day with you, O God, and you will walk with us,

Gathering us into a community to pray for one another in all things.

We will walk this day with you, O Christ, and you will walk with us,

Calling us to follow you, helping us to set aside all which holds us back.

We will walk this day with you, O Spirit, and you will walk with us,

Sending us out, side by side, to serve those cast aside by the world.

Read these words from a hymn today:

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne, make all my wants and wishes known.

In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.

And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Read this scripture from worship:

Psalms 124, NRSV

¹ If it had not been the LORD who was on our side

—let Israel now say—

² if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴ then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵ then over us would have gone the raging waters.

⁶ Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;

the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

James 5:13-20, *The Message*

¹³⁻¹⁵ Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out.

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't—not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- What is prayer?
- When are we driven to pray?
- How do we pray with faith?
- When do we come together to pray?
- How do we pray with and for one another?
- What is the cry of my heart today as I pray?

Pray together:

Merciful God, heal the brokenness in our hearts and minds. Take our fragile bodies and strengthen them for today. Allow us to walk in the healing steps of your love. Thank you for reminding us that you are with us in prayer. You are faithful to respond, and our prayers are moving mountains that we will one day see. Thank you for your faithfulness. God of mercy, inspire us to come to you and pray. In Jesus' name. 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: *Call to Worship*, Presbyterian Church, USA
Disciplines, The Upper Room
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal
The Message, by Rev. Eugene Peterson