

Wesley at Frederica

Home Church

Sunday, March 29

Thank you for taking the time to participate in worship this week! Please use this guide along with the videos found on our website (wesleyssi.org). If you are able, we encourage you to share this experience with your family. However, please follow all CDC guidelines for number of people in a group, and if anyone is sick or displaying symptoms of Covid-19 they should refrain from joining the group. We hope and pray to worship together soon!

This week you will find 3 videos! The first video is a collection of songs to guide you in a blended style of praise. The second video is the sermon, "Today You Will Be With Me." And the third video is Pastor Jerry Roe in a dramatic monologue, "The Thief on the Cross."

Also included in this document you will find a lyric guide for worshipping with music. Please be sure to print enough copies for all who worship with you. Jerry will lead you through the Prayer of Illumination and our scripture lessons for the week. You can follow along as these are provided as well.

We hope and pray to worship together soon!

Home Church Lyric Guide

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain,
by which all creatures ye sustain,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother fire who lights the night,
providing warmth, enhancing sight,
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Stand In Your Love

When darkness tries to roll over my bones
When sorrow comes to steal the joy I own
When brokenness and pain is all I know
Oh, I won't be shaken, no, I won't be shaken

My fear doesn't stand a chance

When I stand in Your love! (x3)

Shame no longer has a place to hide
I am not a captive to the lies
I'm not afraid to leave my past behind
Oh, I won't be shaken, no, I won't be shaken!

There's power that can break off every chain

There's power that can empty out a grave

There's resurrection power that can save

There's power in Your name, power in Your name

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory
Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished
I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

“Today You Will Be With Me...”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray. | Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 21:22-23

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 12:1-4

New Testament Lesson: John 14:18-28

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Use the following questions to guide group discussion or silent reflection following the sermon.

Please read. Luke 21:5-38 Faith in the face of catastrophe Jesus had bad news—the Temple, the place where Jews met with God, would be destroyed. Still more, great hardship and persecution would follow the Temple’s destruction. Jesus’ shocking words about the Jerusalem Temple came true in 70 A.D. Despite the dire facts of this life, Jesus urged his listeners to keep faith through the hardship. His central message was, “Don’t be alarmed ... raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”

1. Picture a worst-case scenario, the hardest tragedy you can imagine. That’s what the destruction of the Temple sounded like to first-century Jewish ears. Jesus told his hearers this unthinkable event would happen, yet told them to keep their faith because their “redemption was near” (verse 28). You and your family are facing a tough time right now. How are you "weathering the storm"? Share your feelings with those around you about our current crisis. Do you believe that Jesus will redeem you from this crisis?
2. The life of faith is not always easy. Scholar N. T. Wright put it this way: *“This is what it’s about: not an exciting battle, with adrenalin flowing and banners flying, but the steady tread, of prayer and hope and scripture and sacrament and witness, day by day and week by week.”* How is Covid-19 testing your faith journey right now? Who has modeled living with patient faith when life gets hard for you?
3. Please read John 14:18-28. What peace is Jesus offering to his disciples? To you? How is the peace that Jesus offers us different than "what the world gives?" How does the peace that Jesus offers relate to our worries, fears and anxieties? What role does the Holy Spirit have in this peace?

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“The Thief on the Cross”

New Testament Lesson: Luke 23:39-43

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Use the following questions to guide group discussion or silent reflection following the sermon.

1. "Remember" is an important word in the Bible. The thief's cry on the cross, "Remember me when you come into your Kingdom" reminds of us of the cries of those who are in need or are dying. In Genesis 40:14, after interpreting the dream of Pharaoh's cupbearer, the cupbearer cried out to Joseph, "Remember me when it is well with you." Hannah prayed to God, "Remember me." (1 Samuel 1:11). Nehemiah did the same (1 Samuel 5:19, 13:31). Job, too (Job 14:13). Let's not leave out the Psalmists (Psalm 25:7, 106:4). Finally, Jeremiah (Jeremiah 15:15).

Is there a time in your life when you made a similar cry to God? What was the circumstance or situation? How did God respond to your plea?

2. No baptism, but a definite confession of faith. Jesus offered the thief more than he asked for -- a garden. Discuss with your family or your group members where other "gardens" are mentioned in the Bible. What's the significance of the garden that Jesus is assuring the thief will be a part of?

3. One of the themes of the Gospel of Luke is that Jesus came for the "least of these." In his final moments of life, Jesus is assuring a wretched criminal that he has found mercy in Him. What does that say about the mercy that Jesus offers you? For the least, the last, the lost, and the lonely?

One more thought:

Remember, on Palm Sunday Jesus entered into Jerusalem through the *Sha'ar ha Rachamim* - the Gate of Mercy - for you and for me.

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