

Bethel Worship Guide – March 29, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Another week has rolled around. How are you feeling? I've been trying to pay attention to my feelings, and naming them. I have felt disoriented, anxious, and angry, as well as hopeful and comforted. Naming my emotions helps me acknowledge them (but not for the purpose of judging them – it's okay to feel whatever I'm feeling). Once I name it, then I can try to figure out why I'm feeling that way, and what choices I can make in response. In the scripture passage today notice the emotions expressed by Jesus and other people. Other elements of this worship service invite us to pay attention to, name, and express our own feelings. Maybe you want to jot a list. Which emotions resonate with you right now?

This worship guide is an invitation to turn again to the action of prayer and the words of scripture, allowing the Spirit of God to speak to us through them. If there are multiple people in your household, you can take turns reading the parts, and share reflections with one another. If you are by yourself, consider journaling your reflections. Or call someone and read & reflect together over the phone! May you be blessed. -Rebecca

Peace verse –

Don't be anxious about anything;
rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions,
along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding
will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:6-7 (CEB)

Light a candle in your worship space to represent the Peace of Christ in your midst today.

Prelude: "Rest Assured" by The Walking Roots Band

link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuNG4nM19U8

Chorus: Rest assured, He's not forgotten
Rest assured, He'll take care of you
Look at the times He's been there before
He'll be there again, rest assured
Here it comes, that empty feeling
It's got you believing you're all alone
There's something telling you that you won't make it
You just can't shake it
And you feel you can't go on.
Chorus ...
You been praying and believing
But you're not receiving
Seems hope is gone
You're feeling like you just can't go on anymore
But that's what faith is for. So keep on holding on.
Chorus ...

Affirmation of Faith: Psalm 46

God is for us a refuge and strength, a helper close at hand in time of distress,

***so we shall not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea;***

even though its waters rage and foam,

even though the mountains be shaken by its waves.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The waters of a river give joy to God's city,

the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within, it cannot be shaken;

God will help it at the dawning of the day.

Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are shaken;

God's voice roars forth, the earth shrinks away.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come, consider the works of the Lord,

the formidable deeds God has done on the earth:

putting an end to wars across the earth;

breaking the bow, snapping the spear; burning the shields with fire.

"Be still and know that I am God,

supreme among the nations, supreme on the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Offering: Consider what you will offer to God this week. It could be a phone call or card, a financial gift, activity supplies for Green Hills, a gift of time or food, etc ...

Offering prayer:

Jesus, You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours. Do with it what you will.

Give me only your love and your grace.

That is enough for me. Amen.

Song (to sing or read) – Sing praise to God who reigns – Hymnal Worship Book #59

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation.

The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled.

To God all praise and glory!

Our God is never far away, throughout all grief distressing,

an ever-present help and stay, our peace, and joy, and blessing.

As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band.

To God all praise and glory!

Then all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud they praises,

that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises:

Be joyful in the Lord, my heart! Both soul and body, bear your part!

To God all praise and glory!

Scripture: read John 11: 1-45

Sermon: follow this link to see Rebecca's sermon ... <https://youtu.be/jUzAHtCqRI>

*Special thanks to Tesa Jordxn for doing the video recording and editing!!

Guided prayer using Psalm 46:10 – “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Follow along in the video as Rebecca leads a centering prayer. Use the words of Psalm 46:10 and the silence to listen for God speaking to you, dwelling in His presence.

Song (to sing or read) – ‘Tis not with eyes of flesh we see – Hymnal Worship Book #571

‘Tis not with eyes of flesh we see that Christ is God’s anointed one.

With eyes of faith we know that he is God’s beloved only Son –
eternal King enthroned above, revealer of God’s grace and love.

O Christ, you have the words of life – unto no other can we go.

None but yourself can calm our strife, and none but you our hopes can know.

Since you have walked this way before, you are to us the only door.

Believing thus, O Son of God, we walk with you along life’s way.

We follow where your feet have trod unto the realms of glorious day.

O fill our hearts with joyous song! Sustain our faith and make us strong!

Intercessory Prayer – (add your own items to the list. ***Note new info on Jeanie’s brother.**)

The Spirit helps us in our weakness;

for we do not know how to pray as we ought,

but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Sheltering God, we pour out our hearts before you, because you are a refuge for us.

In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

You call us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. **We pray for ourselves** and those dear to us.

-*Jeanie’s brother Don. The results of his test came back indicating he has cancer (sarcoma) in his lung. He will see a specialist early this week to schedule radiation treatments. They are thankful for the good medical care that is available to him. Pray for Don’s health, and for Jeanie as she is unable to go visit him.

-Mary Newcomer’s 2.5 year-old grand-nephew Adrian, receiving chemotherapy

-those in the congregation with health concerns

-those who are grieving the death of a loved one, including: Ben Ebbrly and Cindy Kauffmxn.

You are a helper close at hand in times of distress. **We pray for our community** and for our neighbors.

-Pray for the Green Hills community – for administrators, staff, residents and their families. May God grant wisdom, strength and protection as they carry out their responsibilities.

-Pray that God’s peace would offer comfort to those who feel lonely or overwhelmed.

-Pray for those who have been laid off work.

-Pray for Governor DeWinx, Dr. Amy Actxn, and other public officials. May they be guided by wisdom and compassion, seeking the welfare of all.

We pray for the church in all places, that we may be faithful in solidarity across geography.

-Deb Bylxe requests prayer for Maria C, pastor of the Sequixpur Mennonite Church. Women in leadership is a new concept for many churches in Guatemala. Pray that Maria would not be discouraged by criticism, and that she would take time for self-care.

-Pray for our Mennonite brothers and sisters around the world as they also respond to the outbreak of the covid-19 virus. Pray they would be guided and energized by the Holy Spirit as they seek to meet the physical, emotional, health, and spiritual needs in their communities.

You put an end to wars across the earth. **We pray for the world**, for our enemies and for those who are in conflict.

-for leaders and health workers and scientists in other countries caring for their people.

-for the most vulnerable: people in over-crowded refugee camps, those without sanitation or shelter or access to healthcare, the poor ...

In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

May we live this day in simplicity, mercy and hope. Amen.

Closing benediction:

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Note: The Intercessory prayer, and benediction are taken from *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book*, vol.2, Lent, Saturday; (published by Herald Press. 2010).