

Bethel Church Worship Guide – May 17, 2020

Words of welcome – Kim Lehmxn

“Our God is an awesome God. In His hand is the life of every living creature and the breath of all mankind.” Job 12:10. And that sums it up. We either trust the God of Job, or we don’t. Does God love his children? And how do we acknowledge his love? In so many ways, and today “together” as we are “apart”, let us celebrate the God of creation.

Peace verse – Hebrews 12:14-15 (NLT)

Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for without holiness no one will see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

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

Call to Praise: Psalm 148

Alleluia! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

Praise God, all you angels; praise him, all you host.

Praise God, sun and moon; praise him all you shining stars!

Praise God, you highest heavens and the waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord. The Lord commanded; they were made.

God fixed them forever, gave a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth: sea creatures and all oceans,

fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy winds that obey God’s word;

all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,

beasts, wild and tame, reptiles and birds on the wing;

all earth’s nations and peoples, earth’s leaders and rulers;

young men and women alike, the old together with children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord who alone is exalted.

The splendor of God’s name reaches beyond heaven and earth.

God exalts the strength of the people, is the praise of all the saints,

of the people to whom he comes close. Alleluia!

Song: Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah – Hymnal Worship Book #50

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNwxqCxXx-o>

V.1. Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah, from the heavens praise his name!

Praise the Lord, our great Creator; all his angels, praise proclaim.

All his hosts, together praise him, sun and moon and stars on high.

Praise the Lord, you heavens of heaven, and you floods above the sky.

*Chorus: Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah, for his name alone is high,
and his glory is exalted, and his glory is exalted, and his glory is exalted,
far above the earth and sky.*

V.2. Let them praise the Lord Creator; they were made at his command.

God established them forever, his decree shall ever stand.

From the earth O praise your Maker, raging seas, you creatures all,

fire and hail and snow and vapors, stormy winds that hear his call.
V.3. All you fruitful trees and cedars, every hill and mountain high,
creeping things and beasts and cattle, birds that in the heavens fly,
kings of earth and all you people, rulers great, earth's judges all;
praise his name, young men and women, aged ones, and children small.

Offering & Prayer: (by Kim L.)

To our Lord and Savior, please help us not to cling to what is yours.
Help us to give with a cheerful heart. Open our eyes to the needs around us.
May our giving of money be used to draw others to you. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith:

We are not alone; we live in God's world.
We believe in God who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus to reconcile and to make all things new.
We trust in God, who calls us to be the church;
 to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and to resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus – crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death – God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God!¹

Children's Time Song: I saw a tree by the riverside – Sing the Story #116

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxEeRz9A1w>

- V.1. I saw a tree by the riverside one day as I walked along,
straight as an arrow and pointing to the sky, growing tall and strong.
"How do you grow so tall and strong?" I said to the riverside tree.
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me:
*Chorus: I've got roots growing down to the water, I've got leaves growing up to the sunshine.
And the fruit that I bear is a sign of the life in me.
I am shade from the hot summer sundown, I am nest for the birds of the heaven.
I'm becoming what the Lord of trees has meant me to be – a strong young tree.*
- V.2. I saw a tree in the winter-time when snow lay on the ground,
straight as an arrow and pointing to the sky, and winter winds blew all around.
"How do you stay so tall and strong?" I said to the winter-time tree.
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me: (*chorus*)
- V.3. I saw a tree in the city streets where buildings blocked the sun;
green and lovely, I could see it gave joy to everyone.
"How do you grow in the city streets?" I said to the downtown tree.
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me: (*chorus*)

Scriptures: Matthew 13:24-30, (36-43), and Jeremiah 17: 5-8

¹ Arlene Mxrk, ed. *Words for Worship 1*, #145

Sermon: Pictures of Resilience

Link²: <https://youtu.be/2c6tbz0evkY>

Song: Why should I feel discouraged – Sing the Journey #103

V.1. Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home;
when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. (x2)

*Refrain: I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free;
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

V.2. "Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears.
Though by the path he leadeth, but one step I may see;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. (x2)

V.3. Whenever I am tempted, when ever clouds arise,
when songs give place to sighing when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him, from care he sets me free;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. (x2)

Intercessory Prayer: you are invited to offer your own prayers now, and/or join the Bethel group sharing and prayer time at 11:00 am by calling or logging in to GoToMeeting.

God of new beginnings,
you raise us from the grave and draw us into your glory.
In your love, release us from all that binds us to death,
so that we may be eternally bound to you
through the resurrection of your son Jesus, with whom we pray:
Our Father ...

Benediction:

May the seed of Christ's word,
planted and watered by the Holy Spirit,
find root and grow in your hearts.
May your work and relationships reflect Christ's constant presence
in the days of this week. Amen.³

² Thanks to Tesa Jordxn for recording and editing

³ Arlene Mxrk, ed., *Words for Worship 1*, #239.