

Bethel Church Worship Guide – June 14, 2020

Note: the prelude, peace verse reading, NT scripture reading, and sermon can be viewed at this link: https://youtu.be/T5_5jieso1Y, or on Bethel's Facebook page.

Prelude: Spirit of the living God – Hymnal Worship Book #349

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (x2)

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Peace verse: Deuteronomy 5:6-7, 17-21a

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery;

you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet.

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

Welcome: by Doug Steinxr

Good morning friends and welcome to this time of worship and reflection. I have been impressed with the realities that we are at a threshold in many ways. The virus is still here and we are returning to some activities. Protests across the country are calling us to new levels of awareness and justice. And, we are approaching a time we will resume meeting together as a church community. I am reminded of the Israelites coming out of the wilderness after 40 years of hardship. Moses records books and books of instructions to the community as they prepare to enter the promised land. (It is okay to go into your neighbor's vineyard and eat as many grapes as you want, as long as you don't put any in a container! Deut 23:24).

In Deuteronomy 29:2-6, we read:

Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. But to this day the Lord has not given you a mind to understand, or eyes to see, or ears to hear. I have led you forty years in the wilderness. The clothes on your back have not worn out, and the sandals on your feet have not worn out; you have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink—so that you may know that I am the Lord your God.

Let's not rush back to "normal". It is not easy. Maybe God "has not given you a mind to understand". This threshold has much to teach us.

Opening prayer:

Lord, we open our hearts and minds before you this morning, soaking in the beauty of your creation, wrestling with the challenges of your teachings, and comforted by the love of our

church community. Open our eyes to see and our ears to hear that we may walk humbly and obediently in your way.

Song: Blessed Jesus, at your word – Hymnal Worship Book #13

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEOy5iLKvg0>

V.1. Blessed Jesus, at your word we are gathered all to hear you.

Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you.

By your gospel pure and holy teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

V.2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night with your beams of truth unclouded.

You alone to God can win us, you must work all good within us.

V.3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart! Light of light from God proceeding,
open lips and ears and heart, help us by your Spirit's leading.

Hear the cry your church now raises; Lord, accept our prayers and praises!

Old Testament reading: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

Offering & prayer: consider what you will offer to God this week

Lord, you call us out of captivity into the freedom of your beloved community.

As we pass through the wilderness spaces of our lives, grant us ears to hear you,

eyes to see you, and hearts that ache for you,

that we might not turn away from the brothers and sisters

who help us remember who we are.

May our offering be a sign of our attempt at obedience and may it be a blessing to others.

Scripture: Mark 10:17-27 (at 2.18 minute mark in the video)

Sermon: Stories of Wealth (see link at the top of the guide)

Questions for reflection:

1. What emotions do you notice in different people in the story? Who are you in the story?
2. In what ways is this passage a conversation about money and wealth, and our faith and relationship to God? How does Jesus link the two themes?
3. What criteria do you use for distinguishing between *needs* and *wants*?
4. Beryl Jantzi, of Everence, wrote in response to this Bible story: "The '*sin*' is not the wealth itself. It is what wealth can do to us if we are not connected to the heart of God." What "assets" besides money (or what attitudes) do you possess that could become a barrier to your ability to connect to the heart of God? How are you working to release those barriers?
5. Many of Jesus' followers were not wealthy, but some were. What examples can you think of (from the Bible or your experience) of people who used their wealth to help grow the kingdom of God?
6. What encouragement or challenge do you hear God saying to you through this scripture at this time?

Response Song: Take my life – Hymnal Worship Book #389

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

- V.1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- V.2. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.
- V.3. Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.
- V.4. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect
and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.
- V.5. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.
- V.6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

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.

Oh God, we pray this day:

for all who have a song they cannot sing,
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,
for all who live in chains they cannot break,
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,
for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,
for those who live in hunger – and for those who will not share their bread,
for those who are misunderstood, and for those who misunderstand.
Have mercy upon these, O God. Have mercy upon us all. Amen.¹

Sending song: Mayenziwe (Your will be done) – Sing the Journey #57

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

Mayenziewe 'ntando yakho.

Your will (Your will) be done on earth, O Lord. (x2) Your will be done on earth, O Lord. (x3)

Benediction:

May we be filled with knowledge of God's will
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Amen.

Thanks this week to:

Doug Steinr – worship leader (welcome, opening prayer, offering prayer)

Cindy Kauffmxn – peace lamp

Kathy Grabxr – prelude

Rebecca Kauffmxn – sermon

Tesa Jordxn – video recording & editing

¹ Sing the Journey #145.