

Worship @ Home Guide: March 22, 2020

*You are encouraged to use this as a guide for worship at home.
An abbreviated portion should broadcast on the church FaceBook page,
for you to join at a time convenient for you.
Songs and hymns are included
– you are invited to sing, hum, or simply pray over their words.
We gather in Spirit with trust in our ever-present God...*

OPENING PRAYER

For forty days and nights the rain fell,
and the waters covered the face of the earth.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

For forty years the people wandered,
seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain,
learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh:
Repent, or in forty days you will perish.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days
and was tested by the devil.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Eternal God,
as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ,
so give us the grace of repentance
that we may pass through the grave with him
and be born again to eternal life.

For he is the One
who was crucified, dead, and buried,
and rose again for us, Jesus our Savior. **Amen**

+ GATHERING SONG – Lord, Jesus, Think on Me #417



Glory to God #417 ▾

Pew Edition ⚙



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Lord Jesus, Think on Me 417

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin. From
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, a - mid the bat - tle's strife. In
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray. Through
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when this life is past, I

earth-born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.
all my pain and mis - er - y be thou my health and life.
dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heaven - ly way.
may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see, and share thy joy at last.

This text is among the oldest hymns in this book; its original Greek version dates from around the beginning of the 5th century. The stanzas used here come from a 19th-century paraphrase, whose simplicity and directness are well complemented by a 16th-century psalm tune.

TEXT: Synesius of Cyrene, 5th cent.; trans. Allen W. Chatfield, 1876, alt.
MUSIC: Daman's *Psalmes*, 1579, alt.

SOUTHWELL
SM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,
we are people who still love darkness rather than light.
We keep shameful deeds secret,
but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.
We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others.
We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable,
but step back, protecting ourselves.
Forgive us, we pray.
Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly.**

**Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved.
Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives.
Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin,
and shine upon us with your grace.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
the light of the world. Amen.**

READING Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;^[a]

³ he restores my soul.^[b]
He leads me in right paths^[c]
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[d]
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely^[e] goodness and mercy^[f] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.^[g]

REFLECTION

*What word, image or phrase caught your attention?
How has the assurance of God's presence comforted you in troubled times?
How are you being led by God today?
What does this word from God prompt you to change?*

+HYMN Will You Let Me Be Your Servant #727 Glory to God Hymnal

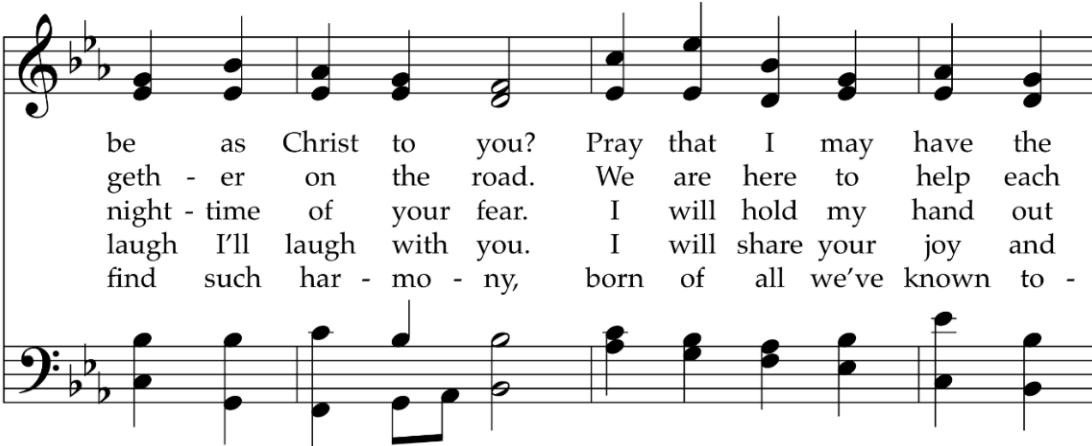
DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
(repeat stanza 1)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Lift your intercessions – joys and concerns for yourself or others – to God at this time.

Prayer requests:

"Please keep Scott Powell and a team from Samaritan's Purse in your prayers. They left this week for a site near Milan, Italy to set up and maintain water supplies and sanitation facilities for a 64 bed MASH-type hospital. They will be there about 4 weeks, and then be quarantined for 14 days when they return. – Judy Powell

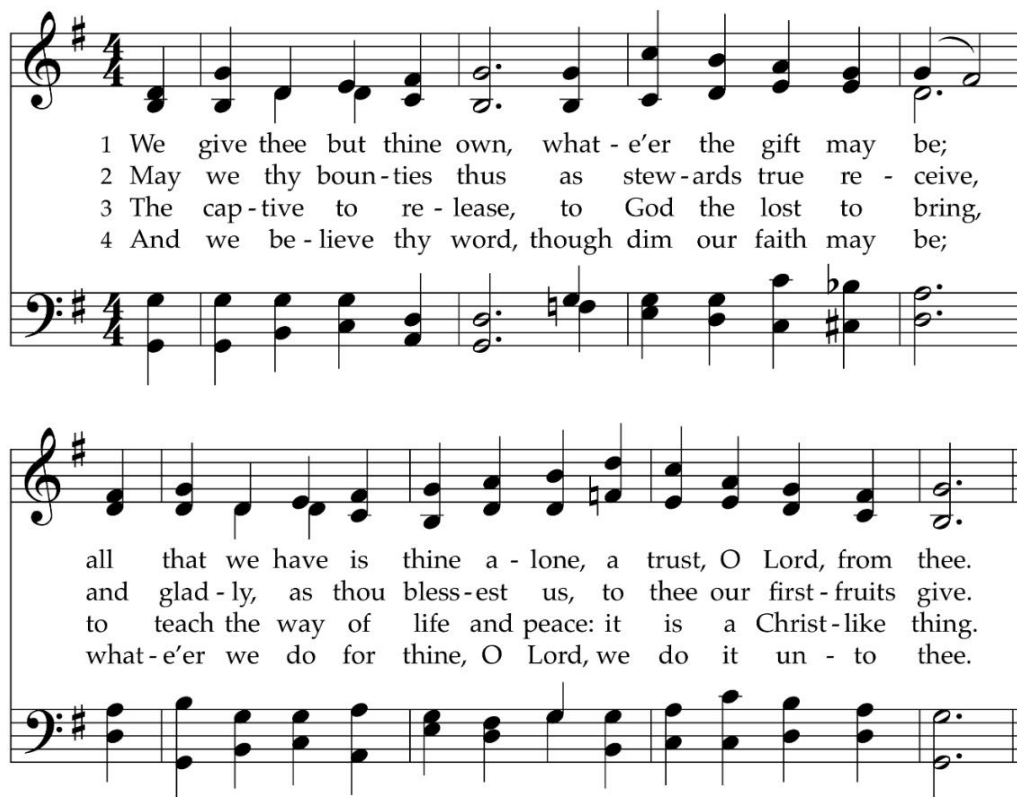
Please keep these people are in your prayers as well: Diane Cook, Loretta Lantz, Judy Powell, Judy Barb (cancer; sister of Keith Coffman), Heather & Alan McCarty (sister/bro in law of Jennifer O'Ferrell), George Brinkley, Amanda Pearson, Herbie Garman, Margy Boyer, Gretchen Smith-Klainer, Linda Campbell, Kristi Huber (within Margaret Nelson's family), Jerry Germroth, Jennifer O'Ferrell, Kenneth Towler (Liz Sollenberger's nephew),

OFFERING

With deep gratitude for God's love, mercy and forgiveness, we dedicate our very selves to sharing this gift through our lives...

+SUNG DEDICATION – We Give Thee but Thine Own #708

We Give Thee but Thine Own 708



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap-tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be;

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ - like thing.
 what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;


the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

+ASSURANCE OF PARDON

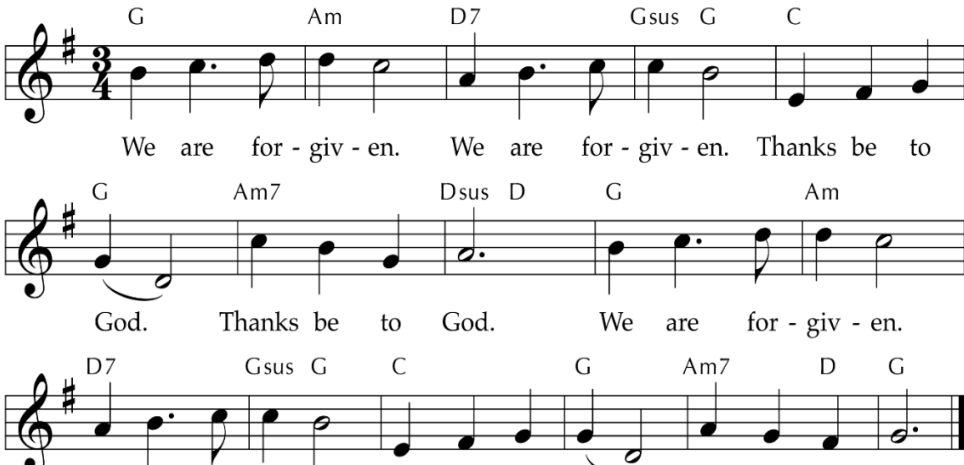
The psalmist assures us
that God's goodness and mercy will follow us,
even pursue us,
all the days of our life.
As God's forgiven people,
receive this goodness and mercy,
and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.
**We will live as children of the light
for Christ shines on us.**

+SUNG BENEDICTION #447 *We Are Forgiven*



FORGIVENESS

447 We Are Forgiven



We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
10.8.10.8

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Lenten Discipline - Prayer @ Home: Centering

Many people who struggle with prayer report an inability to “sit still” or to “make time”. They have difficulty focusing and Centering. An expert in the art, Thomas Keating, explains the practice of Centering Prayer this way:

[it] is based on the wisdom saying of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:6): “If you want to pray, enter your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Notice that “Father” refers to a personal relationship, whether you call it father, mother, brother, soul-friend, spouse or anything else.

The first step in Centering Prayer is to enter your inner room, which is symbolized by the heart in most traditions; that is, your innermost self beyond the senses and beyond thinking. . . .

Second, “close the door,” symbolizing your intention of letting go of all thoughts, preoccupations, memories and plans during this time. As soon as you are overtaken by thoughts, which is inevitable in the beginning, return to your original intention to let go of all thinking. You can do this in a very simple and extremely gently way, like saying a sacred word briefly, noticing your breath, or turning to God with a brief glance of faith in His presence.

Finally, you pray in secret to the Father who speaks to you beyond words and who invites you to ever deeper silence. . . .