

MUMC At-Home Worship:

July 12, 2020

Hello again! This week's reading contains one of my favorite verses – the invitation from Jesus for all of us carrying heavy burdens to find rest in him. How might you find rest in Christ this week? I hope worship is an experience of rest away from the fast pace of the world around us and that you might find ways to carve out moments of that very same rest throughout the rest of the week. Maybe write the scripture on a card you can hang on your fridge or start each morning re-reading the passage! However you look for it, I pray that we might all find rest in Christ.

Be well and have a blessed week!

-Pastor Dillon

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

God of rest, let us center ourselves in you during this time of worship. Calm our hearts and quiet our worlds. Open us to your peace, your grace, your hope, your welcome, and your love. Amen.

Hymn: *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought*, United Methodist Hymnal #128 – [watch/listen here](#)

Old Testament Reading: Matthew 11:16-30

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Reflect:

1. The passage begins with Jesus telling the crowd that they have generally missed God's witness in their presence with both John and Jesus for opposite (and contradictory) reasons. What are some reasons we might miss God's witness in our own lives? Are there times you have recognized God's presence in your life?
2. Jesus says that God has hidden from the wise what has been shown to the young (babies). Why might the young be more open to hearing and seeing? How might we, of any age, be similarly open to God?
3. A yoke is the wooden piece that attaches an animal to the cart they are to pull. Jesus doesn't say he doesn't have a yoke but that it's easy to bear. What might Jesus be asking us to pull in this analogy? Does the burden of following Christ seem like it should be light? Why or why not?

Hymn: *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, United Methodist Hymnal #717 – [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Lord of the Dance*, United Methodist Hymnal #261 – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

Holy God, guide us on the paths to follow you. May we take on your tasks without burden, trusting you to carry the weight of leadership as we take on the joy of service. Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought
United Methodist Hymnal #128

1. He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.

(Refrain)

3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

(Refrain)

4. And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me.

(Refrain)

"He Leadeth Me" words are by Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862, and are in the public domain.

Matthew 11:16-30 (CEB)

"To what will I compare this generation? It is like a child sitting in the marketplaces calling out to others, 'We played the flute for you and you didn't dance. We sang a funeral song and you didn't mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' Yet the Human One came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved to be right by her works."

Then he began to scold the cities where he had done his greatest miracles because they didn't change their hearts and lives. "How terrible it will be for you, Chorazin! How terrible it will be for you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles done among you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have changed their hearts and lives and put on funeral clothes and ashes a long time ago. But I say to you that Tyre and Sidon will be better off on Judgment Day than you. And you, Capernaum, will you be honored by being raised up to heaven? No, you will be thrown down to the place of the dead. After all, if the miracles that were done among you had been done in Sodom, it would still be here today. But I say to you that it will be better for the land of Sodom on the Judgment Day than it will be for you."

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you've hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have shown them to babies. Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness.

"My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light."

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Battle Hymn of the Republic
The United Methodist Hymnal # 717

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he hath loosed the fateful lightning
of his terrible swift sword;
his truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory, glory, hallelujah! (x3)
His truth is marching on.

2. I have seen him in the watchfires
of a hundred circling camps,
they have builded him an altar
in the evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence
by the dim and flaring lamps;
his day is marching on.
(*Refrain*)

3. He has sounded forth the trumpet
that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men
before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him;
be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.
(*Refrain*)

4. In the beauty of the lilies
Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom
that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make men holy,
let us die to make men free,
while God is marching on.
(*Refrain*)

"The Battle Hymn of the Republic" words are by Julia Ward Howe, 1861, and are in the public domain.

Lord of the Dance
United Methodist Hymnal #261

1. I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came to me and the dance went on.
(*Refrain*)

3. I danced on the sabbath when I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped
and they hung me high;
and they left me there on a cross to die.
(*Refrain*)

4. I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.
(*Refrain*)

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
(*Refrain*)

"Lord of the Dance" words by Sydney Carter

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