

MUMC At-Home Worship:

July 26, 2020

Friends, I am so excited to share that our “sermon by phone” service is now up and running! I encourage you to give it a try sometime this week – it’s straightforward and simply. Just call **734-206-1531** at any time to hear the latest scripture and sermon from worship, updated each week as early as Sunday afternoon. The scripture we include on these at-home guides is the same as is used in worship, so you might choose to call the number as a supplement to using the reflection questions below! If you have any questions or feedback, give me a call and let me know! I’m happy to do everything I can to help connect us all together in worship.

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 welcome, center us in your Spirit during this time of worship. Train our eyes and our feet on the coming day of your kingdom, that we might wait with patience and with hope. Amen.

Hymn: *To God Be the Glory*, United Methodist Hymnal #98 – [watch/listen here](#)

New Testament Reading: Romans 8:26-39

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Reflect:

1. The passage begins by talking about the Spirit of God praying on our behalf, interceding with unexpressed groans – presumably, lifting the prayers that are too complex or difficult for us to begin to put them into words. How does this promise encourage you? Can you think of any instances when God answered a prayer that you hadn’t yet figured out how to pray?
2. The promise that “God works all things together for good for the one who love God” (verse 28) can be a challenging one. Notice that God is working all things *for* good, not that everything that happens is necessarily good in and of itself. Does this change your understanding of the promise at all? What are some ways you maintain hope in the good God is working even when in the middle of challenges?
3. The final two verses (verses 38-39) are a powerful expression of how God and God’s love is always with us. Is there a creative way you might remind yourself of this promise this week? Consider maybe reading it from a different translation every morning, writing it on a sticky note to leave somewhere prominent, committing it to memory, painting it or writing a poem about it, or another creative method!

Hymn: *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*, United Methodist Hymnal #480 – [watch/listen here](#)

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

Lord’s Prayer

Hymn: *My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep From Singing)*, The Faith We Sing #2212 – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

Holy God, guide us on the way to your coming glory. Give us strength to persist in hope, looking toward a day we cannot yet see. Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

To God be the Glory
United Methodist Hymnal #98

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory,
great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

(Refrain)

3. Great things he hath taught us,
great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

(Refrain)

"To God be the Glory" words are by Fanny J. Crosby, 1875, and are in the public domain.

Romans 8:26-39 (CEB)

In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

*We are being put to death all day long
for your sake.*

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.

But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

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

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
The United Methodist Hymnal #480

1. O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths
its flow may richer, fuller be.
2. O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze
its day may brighter, fairer be.
3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow thru the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms
red life that shall endless be.

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" words are by George Matheson, 1882, and are in the public domain.

My Life Flows On
The Faith We Sing #2212

1. My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?
2. Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? (*Refrain*)
3. What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. (*Refrain*)
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? (*Refrain*)

"My Life Flows On" words by Robert Lowry, 1869, and is in the public domain.