

MUMC At-Home Worship: January 3, 2021

As we come to the close of the Christmas season, it's common to feel a bit of relief: we made it! There can be a lot clamoring to be done this time of year, whether it's buying and wrapping gifts or cooking meals or decorating or anything else. Fortunately, our faith isn't intended to overwork us but is, in fact, intended also to teach us how to rest. Starting today and over the next few weeks, we'll be looking at some stories where Jesus rested and considering how we might do the same. Thanks for joining us in worship! ~ Pastor Dillon

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

Holy God, calm our spirits and still our hearts for this time of worship. May we feel your welcome embrace and carry the peace of your presence with us everywhere we go. Amen.

Hymn: *Once in Royal David's City*, United Methodist Hymnal #250 [watch/listen here](#)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:23-5:1

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflect:

1. In this story, Jesus is beset by all manner of folks seeking healing. While their intentions and hopes were honest, we might imagine that Jesus was physically overwhelmed as there were more people to heal than he had time to heal them. Have you ever been in a situation that felt similarly?
2. Jesus' response was to leave the crowd and go up on a mountain. While the text says his disciples followed him, it's not clear if the crowds did as well. What can we learn about Jesus' priorities and practices from this simple response?
3. In the scripture to follow, Jesus gives the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7) while sitting on this mountainside. How might our understanding of the sermon on the mount be impacted or shifted when placed after this interaction with the crowds? What teachings of scripture might we rest in when taking leave of our overwhelming to-do lists?

Hymn: *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, United Methodist Hymnal #431 [watch/listen here](#)

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

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, United Methodist Hymnal #251 [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer: Loving God, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until we find rest in you. Welcome us to the practice of rest this week. Amen.

(Blow out the candle)

Once in Royal David's City
United Methodist Hymnal #250

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary, loving mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

"Once in Royal David's City" words by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, music by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849, and both are in the public domain.

Matthew 4:23 – 5:1 Common English Bible

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread throughout Syria. People brought to him all those who had various kinds of diseases, those in pain, those possessed by demons, those with epilepsy, and those who were paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from the areas beyond the Jordan River. Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him.

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

Let There Be Peace on Earth
United Methodist Hymnal #431

Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator,
children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:

to take each moment and live
each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

*“Let There Be Peace on Earth” words and music are
by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; harm. By Charles H.
Webb, 1987. © 1955 Assigned to Jan-Lee Music, ©
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Go, Tell It on the Mountain
United Methodist Hymnal #251

Refrain:
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]
2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth. [Refrain]
3. Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

*“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” words by John W.
Work, Jr., 1907; music Afro-American spiritual,
adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986.
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