

MUMC At-Home Worship: January 10, 2021

We're back with another Gospel passage about rest! Today's is a short and curious one that might not initially seem like it's about resting but I encourage you to sit with it for a bit (and the reflection questions might help!), listening for how God might be speaking to us today. I'm so thankful to be in worship with you this morning! ~ 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: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, United Methodist Hymnal #384 [watch/listen here](#)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:14-15

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflect:

1. In this short passage, John the Baptist's disciples question why Jesus' disciples don't fast like they do. It's likely that in this instance, fasting is a sort of shorthand reference to all the work of faith – the difficult but important ways we employ our lives in service to God. Have you ever found yourself asking this question about why someone else is skirting what you see as the hard work of faith? Have you ever found yourself on the opposite side, questioned for resting when there is work to be done?
2. Jesus' response is carefully balanced and doesn't imply that either fasting or celebrating is more important than the other, suggesting instead that his disciples must do whichever is appropriate for the situation. What might a healthy balance between the hard work of faith and the restful moments in God's presence look like in your life?
3. While Jesus may not be bodily present with us today as with the disciples, God is certainly still present in other ways. Where or when have you encountered God this past week? How might we look for moments to rest in God's presence throughout this upcoming week?

Hymn: *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*, United Methodist Hymnal #462 [watch/listen here](#)

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

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*, United Methodist Hymnal #671 [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)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
United Methodist Hymnal #384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” words by Charles Wesley, 1747, music by John Zundel, 1870, and both are in the public domain.

Matthew 9:14-15 Common English Bible

At that time John’s disciples came and asked Jesus, “Why do we and the Pharisees frequently fast, but your disciples never fast?”

Jesus responded, “The wedding guests can’t mourn while the groom is still with them, can they? But the days will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they’ll fast.

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

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
United Methodist Hymnal #462

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

2. O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust his cleansing blood;
and in simple faith to plunge me
neath the healing, cleansing flood! [Refrain]

3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace. [Refrain]

4. I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,
precious Jesus, Savior, friend;
and I know that thou art with me,
wilt be with me to the end. [Refrain]

*"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" words are by
Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882; music is by William J.
Kirkpatrick, 1882, and both are in the public
domain.*

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing
United Methodist Hymnal #671

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.
2. Thanks we give and adoration
for thy gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of thy salvation
in our hearts and lives abound;
ever faithful, ever faithful
to the truth may we be found.

*"Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing" words are
attributed to John Fawcett, 1773; music is from "The
European Magazine and Review," 1792, and both
are in the public domain.*