

WORSHIP SERVICE CONGREGATION

August 23, 2020

In preparation for today's service, please find a cross you have and have it with you as you worship. It can be on a necklace or a décor around your home, a drawing by a grandchild or any other form. It can be pretty or rough. We will use our crosses during the time of prayer, and we will be exploring what it means to "take up your cross." Spend a few moments thinking about what the cross means to you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 96)

LEADER: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

PEOPLE: **O Lord, how great Thou art!**

LEADER: Let the fields be joyful, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

PEOPLE: **O Lord, how great Thou art!**

LEADER: Let all creation, including humans stuck at home during a pandemic,
rejoice before the Lord!

PEOPLE: **O Lord, how great Thou art!**

PRAYER

HYMN # How Great Thou Art
O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hearing the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee,
"How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee,
"How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

CHORUS

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in.

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

CHORUS

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration,

And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

CHORUS

HYMN #

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies;

For the love that from our birth, over and around us lies;

Lord of all, to Thee, we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night;

Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of night;

Lord of all, to Thee, we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;

Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;

Lord of all, to Thee, we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee,

"How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee,

"How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"

GIVING OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

PRAYER AND PRAISE

HYMN # I Need You Lord

I need You, Lord, I need You, Lord, right now;

I need You, Lord, I need You, Lord, right now.

I lift my hands and bow my knees, and worship at Your throne,

I need You, Lord, I need You, Lord, right now.

We need You, Lord, We need You, Lord, right now;

We need You, Lord, We need You, Lord, right now.

We lift our hands and bow our knees, and worship at Your throne,

We need You, Lord, We need You, Lord, right now.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 16: 21- 26

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

REFLECTION Take Up Your Cross and Follow

HYMN # I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,

I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.

I'll take my cross, Lord, and I will follow, I'll take my cross, Lord, and I will follow,

I'll take my cross, Lord, and I will follow; no turning back, no turning back.

BENEDICTION