

# **Preparing for Worship**

**Notes from Rodney Barbour**

**Sunday May 28, 2017**

**Theme:** UN4GIVN (part 3 of 4) *A Better Way to Live*

**Preparation for Worship:** Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose has made their hearts and closely watches everything they do...the eyes of the Lord are watching over those who fear him, who rely upon his steady love. We depend upon the Lord alone to save us. Only he can help us; he protects us like a shield.

*America, America, God shed his grace on thee: and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that's free. Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we raise our voices in a solemn, prayer. God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her through the night, with a light from above. From the mountains to the prairies, to the oceans, white with foam, God bless America; my home, sweet home. God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her through the night, with a light from above. From the mountains to the prairies, to the oceans, white with foam. God bless America; my home sweet home. God bless America; my home, sweet home. God bless America! America! My home!*

**Call to Worship** This comes from 2 Chronicles 7:14, and Deuteronomy 6. We are to love God, think constantly about his commandments, teach his commandments to our children, and live our daily lives by the guidelines of his Word. Jesus said the greatest commandment is loving God with all your heart, soul, and might. This combined with the command to love your neighbor encompasses all the other Old Testament laws.

Leader: If my people who are called by my name...

**People: will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

Leader: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**People: And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

Leader: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

**People: Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Whatever you want others to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.**

Leader: Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God. Submit yourselves to every ordinance for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

**People: For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Honor all people, love the fellowship, fear God, honor the king. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

**Hymn of Praise:** *God is our refuge and strength...we need not fear if the world blows up and the mountains crumble into the sea...so let the oceans roar and foam and the mountains tremble.* These words are from Psalm 46---a hymn of praise. In our worship, we praise God that he is always there to help us, providing refuge, security and peace. God's power is complete and his ultimate victory is certain. He will not fail to rescue those who love him.

**Eternal Father-strong to save-whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.**

**Vs2**

**O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain o'er which our traffic runs a-main  
By mountain pass or valley low;  
wherever, Lord, thy children go,  
Protect them by thy guarding hand  
From every peril on the land.**

**Vs3**

**O Spirit, whom the Father sent to spread abroad the firmament;  
O Wind of heaven, by thy might save  
all who dare the eagle's flight,  
And keep them by thy watchful care  
From every peril in the air.**

**Vs4**

**4 O Trinity of love and power, thy children shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,  
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;  
Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee  
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.**

**Confessing Sin:** Colossians 3:13 Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others...let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony. Let the peace of heart which comes from Christ be always present in your hearts and lives, for this is your responsibility and privilege as members of his body. Always be thankful.

Leader: Lord God, we confess the broken relationships impeding our walk with you. Forgive us for times we have hurt others. Forgive us for allowing wounds to fester and for holding hatred and vindictiveness in our hearts.

**People: Forgive us, O God, and strengthen us to go make peace with those we have wronged. Then bring us back, renewed and rejoicing to worship you without hindrance.**

**Assurance of Pardon** You will detect imagery from "The Lord's Prayer" in today's assurance of pardon. Jesus says if we refuse to forgive others, he will also refuse to forgive us. When we don't forgive others, we are denying our common ground as sinners in need of God's forgiveness. God's forgiveness of sin is not the direct result of our forgiving others, but it is based on our realizing what forgiveness means. Ephesians 4:32 says—*Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ.*

Leader: Father in heaven, you are Lord of all. Your will is perfect, and you provide generously for all of your creatures. You cleanse us from all our sins. You lead us in paths that are safe and right. Your kingdom is to be desired above all else. Your power is the greatest force in the universe. Your glory radiates from every corner of Creation.

**People: We praise and adore you, Heavenly Father, for all that you are and for the amazing grace and forgiveness you have extended to us.**

**Scripture/Sermon:** Before Sunday, take time to read 2 Corinthians 2:5-11. Pastor Shawn will be continuing his series UN4GIVN (part 3 of 4)—A Better Way to Live.

**Closing Song:** Psalm 31:3—Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me! The setting of this hymn is the march of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. Although the Israelites' sin and unbelief kept them from their destination for 40 years, God provided for their physical needs with a new supply of manna each day. Claim God's promises for your life in even the small decisions you will be called upon to make this day. Praise him!

**Vs1**

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;**

**I am weak, but thou art mighty---hold me with thy powerful hand;**

**Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,**

**Feed me till I want no more.**

**Vs2**

**Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;**

**Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through:  
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,**

**Be thou still my strength and shield.**

***See you in Worship this Sunday!***