

# WORSHIP PREPARATION NOTES

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Sunday September 17, 2017

Topic: Distinct: Living Above the Norm---Dealing with Conflict--Matthew 5:21-26

Preparation From I John 1—God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. Here are the words to our choir anthem:

*Lift your light, let it shine high in the darkness; let it shine all over the world, Jesus loves you! Lift your light, lift it high, high in the darkness; Jesus is the light of the world. Lift it higher. Lift your light! Lift your light, let it shine high in the darkness; let it shine all over the world, Jesus loves you! Lift your light, lift it high, high in the darkness; Jesus is the light of the world. Lift it higher. Jesus is the light, light of all the world. Lift the light within you, shine it all around the world. Let the glory rise; raise it to the sky; Let your light for Jesus shine! This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! Lift your light, let it shine high in the darkness; let it shine all over the world, Jesus loves you! Lift your light, lift it high, high in the darkness; Jesus is the light of the world. Lift it higher and higher and higher and higher! Lift your light higher and higher! Lift it up higher and higher! Jesus is the light of the world!*

Call To Worship Read Isaiah 60:19 The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. A prayer: When we grow weary, Lord, bring to our remembrance the New Jerusalem. Give us a vision of the righteousness, the peace and justice, the beauty and plenty that are to come. Lift up our eyes and our hearts. Refresh our spirits with the sure expectancy of the glorious reality that is on the way.

Leader: Gather around the Light.

People: For it is dark outside and we cannot see our way.

Leader: Gather around the Light to sit at the feet of the Teacher

People: Who comes to us with pleasant words as smooth as silk and difficult words that catch in our throats.

Leader: We gather around the Light to see where we are going and to see who we are.

People: Thank you, God for the Light that shines in the dim places of our hearts.

Hymn of Praise: Congruent with today's theme, being "updated in worship, prayer and study of God's Word" helps us when we are engaged in conflict, when friends may fail us, or foes assail us. Being grounded in Jesus and his word give us a holy confidence to shield us from attack, and to empower us to respond according to God's word.

1 Jesus! what a friend for sinners!  
Jesus! lover of my soul;  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,  
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Refrain:  
Hallelujah! what a Savior!  
Hallelujah! what a friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
He is with me to the end.

2 Jesus! what a strength in weakness!  
Let me hide myself in Him;  
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,  
He, my strength, my vict'ry wins. [Refrain]

4 Jesus! what a guide and keeper!  
While the tempest still is high,  
Storms about me, night o'ertakes me,  
He, my pilot, hears my cry. [Refrain]

5 Jesus! I do now receive Him,  
More than all in Him I find,  
He hath granted me forgiveness,  
I am His, and He is mine. [Refrain]

Call to Confession Read Matthew 18:15-19. If we forgive others when they sin against us, then Jesus will forgive us as well. For in the same way we judge others, we will be judged, and with the measure we use, it will be measured to us. We ask in Jesus' name that he will set us free from the torment of bitterness and un-forgiveness. Help us, O God, to walk away in freedom and to never look back.

*(unison)* God, I confess that there are broken relationships impeding my progress in my walk with you. Forgive me for the times I have hurt others. Forgive me for allowing wounds to fester and for holding hatred and vindictiveness in my heart. Strengthen me to go—today—to make peace with

those I have wronged. Bring me back, renewed and rejoicing to worship you without hindrance.

Assurance of Pardon Read I Peter 2:9-10. We did not choose Jesus; Jesus chose us. We are humbled by his mercy, which he lavished upon us. It was not enough for him to forgive us, it was not enough for Jesus to rescue us—he had so much more in mind. He has done immeasurably more than we could possibly have asked or imagined. We are amazed at his boundless love. What honor to be your priesthood, what security to be your cherished possession, what Grace to be made holy; what joy to be rescued from the dominion of darkness, what privilege to be granted a share in the inheritance of the saints, in the kingdom of light! For you have made us to be like the light in the vast expanse.

Leader: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

People: All of us together have received God's mercy in Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made to be a community united in faith. Thanks be to God.

Scripture and Sermon: Before Sunday, be sure to read: Matthew 5:21-26. Anger is a dangerous emotion which always threatens to leap out of control, leading to violence, emotional hurt, and increased mental stress. There is spiritual damage as well. Anger keeps us from developing a spirit pleasing to God. Christ wants us to practice thought-control as well as self-control. Our relationships with others reflect our relationship with God!

Offering Music: Read 2 Corinthians 9:8—God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times...you will abound in every good work.

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, I once was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and that same grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour when I first believed! Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already safely come: this grace has brought me safe thus far, and surely grace will lead me home. I shall go home. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the glorious sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than since the day we first begun.*

Song of Response: Verse 3 speaks to today's lesson: Heal your children's warring

madness, bend our pride to your control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient church's story,  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

3 Cure your children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

*See You in Worship This Sunday*