

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP AT 11

Sunday May 20, 2018

These notes are posted to help you take a few minutes to prepare for worship through reading the scripture and thinking about the songs! Today we celebrate PENTECOST Sunday. Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations, back to Jerusalem. Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. In celebrating, we express our gratitude for the faithfulness of Jesus in fulfilling his promise to send "another counselor" (John 14:16). We celebrate the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; we profess our confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power is available for its mission; we grow in awareness of the immensity of our calling to reach the world with the gospel. Read today's Scripture: Acts 7:54-60.

SONGS:

How Great is Our God: here are excerpts from Ezekiel 1 describing the greatness of our God--- *...while I was among the exiles...the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God...I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures... Each of the four had the face of a man, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle...Their wings were spread out upward; each had two wings, one touching the wing of another creature on either side, and two wings covering its body...As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces...They sparkled like chrysolite, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel...Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would rise along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.*

When the creatures moved, they also moved; when the creatures stood still, they also stood still; and when the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels rose along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked like an expanse, sparkling like ice, and awesome... Then there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. Above the expanse over their heads was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man...I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking...

Oceans: Psalm 107:28-30. Sometimes we feel as though all is hopeless. But trouble can lead us to depend on God as we cry to him for help. When he saves us, we will praise him for the good he has done. Then we understand that God can bring good out of troubles because our afflictions strengthen our faith.

Dwell: Read these related scriptures:

Colossians 3: 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him....

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

1 Corinthians 14:15

What then shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

Ephesians 5:19

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord,

Ephesians 5:26

to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

Colossians 1:28

We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:8

For not only did the message of the Lord ring out from you to Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone out to every place, so that we have no need to say anything further.

James 5:13

Is any one of you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises.

Not to Us Read Psalm 115:1. Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! The psalmist asked that God's name alone be glorified. Too often we ask God to glorify his name with ours. For example, we pray for help to do a good job so that our work will be noticed. Or we may ask that a presentation go well so we will get applause. Your glory should be a by-product of seeking God's glory.

***SEE YOU IN WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!
BRING A FRIEND!***