

MEDITATION PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP:

Understanding God, when the fires grow cold and our hearts become weary, we turn to you for encouragement. We know that we can trust you, and so we ask your blessing on this service. May it be a means of empowerment for each one of us. Let our mission be made clear, and may we feel the power of your Spirit encouraging us to go forth to be faithful witnesses of your love. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- Power, success, happiness, as the world knows them, are for those who will fight for them hard enough; but peace, love, joy are only from God.
 Frederick Buechner (American writer, novelist, poet, autobiographer, essayist, preacher, and theologian.)
- ❖ Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right.

-Max Lucado (American Author and Minister at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The Lord is good to everyone who trusts in him.

People: It is best for us to wait in patience for him to save us.

Leader: The Lord is merciful and will not reject us forever.

People: We may encounter sorrow, but God's love for us is sure and strong.

Leader: Let us examine our ways and turn back to the Lord.

People: Let us open our hearts to God in heaven and pray.

Leader: Come, let us worship God!

PRAISE SONG: God is Good (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

All: Merciful God, we confess that our sins have been part of the reason for the troubles that beset us. We are heartily sorry for these our misdeeds, and pray that in your forgiveness we may find new meaning for our lives as we strive to serve you in all that we do.

Lord, forgive us when we let disappointment and despair get the upper hand. Keep us faithful in our service to you, and may we never lose our hope for a future you have already won. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: When the Pain of the World Surrounds Us (vs. 2 & 4) (music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSON Lamentations 3:19-26

Worship scripture readings seldom come from this Old Testament book of the Bible which contains laments after Jerusalem, with the beloved Temple had been captured by the Babylonians. This reading expresses a personal sense of loss, but also continued confidence in God.

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in the Lord.'

The LORD is good to those who wait for the Lord, to the soul that seeks the Lord. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10

These sayings of Jesus from the New Testament book of Luke some suggest could be entitled, "Don't be like the Pharisees". After engaging often with those Jewish religious leaders, Jesus is directing these words to His disciples, learners and followers of Him, suggesting that faith or trust enhances life and that life should not be lived seeking recognition from others or personal status.

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

'Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!"

MESSAGE: "Why Do We Do What We Do" Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: I Will Trust in You (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS (with THE LORD'S PRAYER)

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Whenever we miss the power of your persistent grace and love, O God, shake us up,

wake us up, change us. Let us be your people, both now and evermore.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Precious Lord (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



God is Good



Opening Refrain: (song leader)
Refrain: (congregation and CTP singers)

Verse 1: (CTP singers)

If you're walkin' through the valley, and there are shadows all around;
Do not fear; He will guide you. He will keep you safe and sound.
He has promised to never leave you, nor forsake you; and His Word is true.

Refrain: (congregation and CTP singers)

Verse 2: (CTP singers)

We were sinners so unworthy, still for us He chose to die, Filled us with His Holy Spirit, now we can stand and testify That His love is everlasting and His mercies they will never end.

Refrain: (congregation and CTP singers)

Verse 3: (CTP singers)

Though I may not understand all the plans you have for me; My life is in Your hands, and through the eyes of faith, I can clearly see.

Refrain: (congregation and CTP singers)



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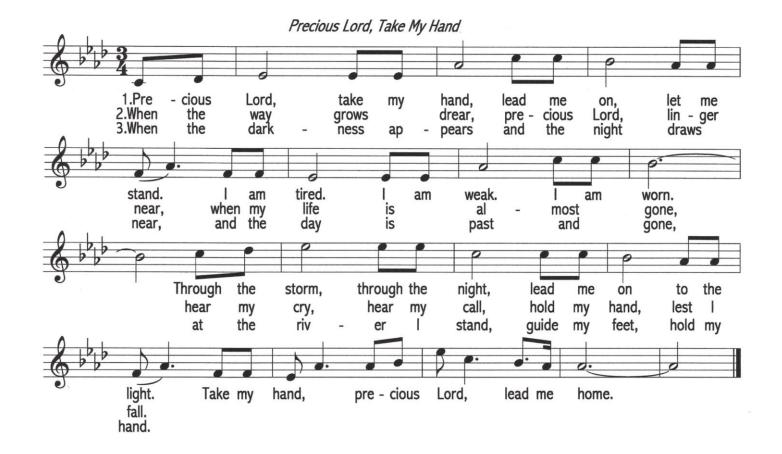
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