

# WORSHIP GUIDE for SUNDAY, MAY 24

## SETTING YOUR SPACE

For our gathering on this last Sunday in the season of Easter, we're in another Psalm - #137 – a song of lament and heartache, where people remember wondering what their lives might be after so much had changed for them. We'll be talking about God in space and in time, about sacred spaces and sacred moments. Is there something you can add to your worship space this morning that reminds you of a holy time? Or maybe something that helps you “create” time – a candle, a singing bowl, a special object that invites you to stillness and awareness? Bring that. Also, the Children's Story during this service describes an attempt to draw God... so we'll invite you to do the same. Have some blank paper nearby, and something to mark on it with, so that – whatever you age – you can participate in this time.

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### Prelude

### Welcome & Greeting One Another

### Gathering Song: *Blessed Assurance*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blessed;  
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

## **Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer *from the New Zealand Prayer Book***

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

**Children's Story:** *Drawing God* by Karen Kiefer

### **Scripture: Psalm 137:1-6**

*By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept, remembering Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors taunted us to sing our songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy: "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" But how could we sing a song of our God in a foreign land?*

*If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill! May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I ever forget you, if I ever stop considering Jerusalem my greatest joy.*

**Special Music:** *On the Willows* from *Godspell* by Stephen Schwartz

**Sermon:** "How Can We Sing?"

### **Response Song: *I Lift My Hands***

Be still, there is a healer whose love is deeper than the sea  
Their mercy, it is unfailing; their arms are a fortress for the weak  
Let faith arise. Let faith arise.

I lift my hands to believe again. You are my refuge, You are my strength  
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember: You are faithful, God, forever

Be still, there is a river that flows from Calvary's tree  
A fountain for the thirsty - pure grace that washes over me  
Let faith arise. Let faith arise.

I lift my hands to believe again. You are my refuge, You are my strength.  
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember: You are faithful, God.  
You are faithful, God, forever. Let faith arise. Let faith arise.

Open my eyes, open my eyes, open my eyes.  
Let faith arise, let faith arise. Open my eyes, open my eyes.

I lift my hands to believe again. You are my refuge, You are my strength.  
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember: You are faithful, God, forever.

### **Closing Words**

#### **Going Forth Song: *Take My Life, God, Let It Be***

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.  
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
Take my heart and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.

### **Benediction**

**One:** Friends, ...may the peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

### **Postlude**

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To join the Children's Chapel Zoom: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/956078254>

To join in congregational fellowship following this service:

<https://zoom.us/j/92036874254?pwd=TEsrY2ZZVTIKYVlweWdMUlFvVktoQT09>

Meeting ID: 920 3687 4254 Password: 725899

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