

# WORSHIP GUIDE for AUGUST 22, 2021

Hi, Friends! Tomorrow is our annual Worship in the Park celebration, so we're planning to meet at 10 o'clock at Discovery Meadows (1300 SW Cypress Lane in McMinnville, near Columbus Elementary School). We'd invite you to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards - bring your own food, and the Social Team will provide drinks and individually-wrapped desserts.

This worship guide will look a little different from most because I wanted to give not just words to follow along, but an option for engaging with the same activities from home for those who choose not to come to the park tomorrow. We won't have the kind of set-up or equipment we need to live-stream the service, so there won't be anything to watch from home, but hopefully this guide will offer some options to engage in the same sort of reflection those who come to the park will be doing. And we'll see you online again Sunday, August 29th!

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**Welcome & Greeting One Another - Erika**

**Gathering Songs: *Morning Has Broken & Trees of the Field* - Jesse & Worship Team**

**Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer *from Jim Burko***

Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts, farther from us than the most distant star, you are beyond naming. May your powerful presence become obvious - not only in the undeniable glory of the sky, but also in the seemingly base and common processes of the earth. Give us what we need, day by day, to keep body and soul together, because clever as you have made us, we still owe our

existence to you. We recognize that to be reconciled with you, we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings, putting hate and bitterness behind us. We are torn between our faith in your goodness and our awareness of the evil in your creation, so deliver us from the temptation to despair. Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty. So it is. Amen.

**Scripture: James 1:19-27**

**THE MESSAGE**

*Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.*

*Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.*

*But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a person of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.*

*Anyone who sets himself up as “religious” by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.*

## NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

*You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.*

*But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.*

*If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

## Reflection – Erika

### Prayer Stations

- Mirrors – Pick up a mirror. Look at yourself. Dwell in your reflection for a moment. Pay attention to it. Don't look away.
  - What do you see? What do you think God sees?  
Remember the stories over the past few months – God saw Abram's potential, Hagar's pain, Miriam's courage, Mary's faithfulness, that there was goodness in Zacchaeus, that there was still life in Lazarus; God sees our lives change shape and direction over time; God sees people emerging together from struggle into celebration and celebrates with them. After you put this mirror

down, what do you want to remember about how God sees you?

- Windows - Pick up a window. Look through it. Use it to focus your attention.
  - What do you see? What do you think God sees? Think about the windows of your home, your office. What is the need you see there? What is the gift? What is the care offered outside your window? How are you a part of it? How might you be?
- Globes - Spin a globe. Let your finger fall where it will. Say the name of the place you landed on out loud. Do this a few times.
  - What do you see? What do you think God sees? How are you connected to these other places, and their gifts and needs? How are you distant from them? How does your awareness of realities far away affect how you live right here? What's one prayer you would say for some other place this morning?

## **Lectio Divina**

In this first reading,  
listen for basic understanding:

*Humbly welcome the word which has been planted in you,  
because it has the power to save you. In simple humility, let our  
gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a  
salvation-garden of your life.*

In this second reading,  
listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you:

*Humbly welcome the word which has been planted in you,  
because it has the power to save you. In simple humility, let our*

*gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.*

In this third reading,  
listen for a way this scripture might be calling you:

*Humbly welcome the word which has been planted in you,  
because it has the power to save you. In simple humility, let our  
gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a  
salvation-garden of your life.*

**Response Song: *In the Garden* - Jesse & Worship Team**

**Sharing Around Tables/Reflecting on Your Own**

- What words from the scripture resonated with you?  
(Reading 2)
- How did you hear it calling you? (Reading 3)
- What has been growing in you lately? What is coming up in the garden of your life? How is the world around you calling on you, counting on you, to emerge?

**Prayer**

**Going Forth Song: *Song of Hope* - Jesse & Worship Team**

**Benediction**

Friends, may we see this world through the eyes of God's compassion and care; may you see yourselves with that same grace and promise; and now, and always, as you live into it, as you embrace and cultivate what God is growing in the garden of your life, may the peace of Christ be with you. Amen.

**Postlude**