

Faith Bible Study Guide

For the Week of June 16, 2024 - 4th SUNDAY IN PENTECOST: "Music Appreciation Sunday: Sing Praises to Your Name"

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff is the vocal line, and the second is the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "I. I sing prais-es to your name, O Lord, prais - es to your name, O Lord,". The music is simple and suitable for a church service.

Be still [2 Minutes]: As you hear these Centering Words, let us greet each other, greet the Holy Spirit, and begin with 1 minute of silence, breathing in the breath of God and allow the group to open themselves to the Holy Spirit today:

CENTERING WORDS:

"...Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." –Ephesians 5:19

OPENING PRAYER:

L: God of covenant love,

P: we praise you for planting seeds of your love within Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants.

L: God of incarnate love,

P: we marvel at the magnificent family tree that your divine love has created among us.

L: God of welcoming love,

P: we thank you that you have made a home for us within the branches of your family tree.

L: God of everlasting love.

P: we worship you, we love you, and we honor you with all that we are. AMEN

Be the Word: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, Most High; ²to proclaim your loyal love in the morning, your faithfulness at nighttime ³with the ten-stringed harp, with the melody of the lyre ⁴because you've made me happy, Lord, by your acts. I sing with joy because of your handiwork.

¹²The righteous will spring up like a palm tree. They will grow strong like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹³Those who have been replanted in the Lord's house will spring up in the courtyards of our God.

¹⁴They will bear fruit even when old and gray; they will remain lush and fresh ¹⁵in order to proclaim: “The Lord is righteous. He’s my rock. There’s nothing unrighteous in him.”

L: The Word of God for all people

P: Thanks be to God

Be present: [Being mindful of others and sharing time]

1. Take a deep breath. How is it with your soul?
2. We’ve asked you this before: What is your favorite CHURCH song or hymns?
3. Now, what is your favorite SECULAR song that you connect with at a deeper level? (Spiritually - connects with your spiritual side; Physically - movement-wise; Mentally - memories; Viscerally - elicits memories through senses ...etc..)

Be rooted: [Bible Study]

The book of Psalms in the Bible is a collection of songs and prayers that express worship and praise to God. The Psalms encourage readers to praise God for his power, creation, and past acts of deliverance, and to affirm his faithfulness during difficult times. The Psalms also teach the importance of prayer, acknowledging pain, and fulfilling prophecy.

The Psalms illuminate the greatness of our God, affirm His faithfulness to us in times of trouble, and remind us of the absolute centrality of His Word.

1. Why is the Psalmist writing a Psalm of praise for this particular Psalm 92?
 - What kind of Psalm is this?
 - What are they celebrating or lifting up in that context?
 - What are other kinds of Psalms that do not reflect this joyous kind of reflection?
2. The Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto (now Bishop Oliveto!) always preached, “We Methodists sing our theology. We sing our beliefs and how we are called to live out in the world.” What do you think about that statement?
3. What did you think of the back stories of the following songs shared during Sunday’s worship service? (Re-watch worship on YouTube @faithsouthbay.org for the retelling of the stories):
 - “O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO” UMH480
 - “IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL” UMH377
 - “LIFT EVERY VOICE” UMH519
 - “MATTHEW 11”

Does knowing the back story help or contribute to your feeling/hearing the music in a different way? What does each song lift up?

Be transformed: [Call to action]

1. Bishop Dottie chose Mary Mary’s song, “Praise You” also known as “Shackles” in her opening

sermon for Annual Conference Worship (one of Rev. Allison's favorite praise songs too!). The theme for AC this year is, "Flourish." How could this song remind us of praising God while using our hands and feet to do God's Work. Does this song inspire you?

https://youtu.be/V7eZD3TKn_M?si=1Ptm9fDIONN6U6cT

2. Have you ever written your own "Psalm"? Want to try it?
 - Explore writing a creative poem, song, verse that expresses what you feel for God in this moment.
 - Consider your emotions, your context, and what you want to tell God.

Prayers & Concerns

Celebrations...

Rev. Eric Iki, was Ordained at Annual Conference on 6/15

Youth Director, Darrell Mark was recognized as West District Youth Worker of the Year at AC on 6/14

Julie Inouye completed her Certified Lay Minister Training

Mary Tamura turns 100 on June 22!

Amy Hashimoto turns 100 in July!

Prayers for healing and wholeness...

Mutsuko Nishi (Henry's mom)

Claretta Foster

Jack Hamada

The Sasaki Family; Jordan Sasaki, Sally, Ken,
& Jason

Jerry Osaka

Victoria Dela Torre

Diane & Destiny Ueda-Banda

Audrey Goto

Tak and Irene Ryono

Ralph Ichikawa's brother, Jim (Tio)

Alice Kajiya

Faye Toma

Jason's friend, Kaitlyn Sabedra

Faith Tanaka

Sam Kobayashi

Chic Miyake

Winnie Osaki

Alveena Fukuhara

Harry Lum

Kyle Ichikawa (Ralph's son)

Masako Akiyama

Maxine Butcher

Florence Uchida

Deron Tokishi (brother of Sheri Tong)

Fred Endo (father of Sharon Ann Endo)

Paul Mito

Pam Fink

*Kim Foster's friend, Gabriel's father

*Susan DeGracia's "nephew," Danny

Tokudomi

***Susan Slade**

***Mary Jung**

***Susanah Bulatao (entering hospice care)**

***Glenn & Millie Shimizu**

Prayers for Grieving Families...

***Mary Yamasaki (memorial service, 6/21,
10am - Green Hills)**

***Herb Kaku (memorial service, 6/29, 3pm)**

Sumi Maruya (memorial service: 5/17, 11am)

Virginia Flood (memorial service, 6/1, 11am)

***Preston Akiyama (husband of Masako,
passed on 4/15/24)**

Families rebuilding after natural disasters

Election year

Covid (and for those who are sick, ailing, in need of God's love and healing

The United Methodist Church)

Victims of domestic violence

For our hurting world...

Japan Earthquake / Volcanic Eruption in Sakurajima (near Kagoshima)

People of the Holy Land

And Know that He is God: Commission & Benediction

