

Worship Guide Sunday, January 12, 2025

# Call to Worship

As the fountain of all truth, goodness, and beauty, God deserves our trust, honor, and adoration. The call to worship invites us to consider whether we are making God the object of our worship, and stirs us to recenter our lives on him alone.

#### Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

  You have given me relief when I was in distress.

  Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- 2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? Selah
- 3 But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.
- 4 Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Selah
- 5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!"
- 7 You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- 8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

# Song of Adoration - "There is a Higher Throne"

The song of adoration expresses our awe at God's love, power, and goodness.

1

There is a higher throne / Than all this world has known
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue / Will one day come
Before the Son we'll stand / Made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace—Salvation comes

Refrain

Hear heaven's voices sing / Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies / Their praises rise
All glory, wisdom, pow'r / Strength, thanks, and honor are
To God our King, who reigns on high / Forevermore

9

And there we'll find our home / Our life before the throne;
We'll honor Him in perfect song / Where we belong
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye / As thirst and hunger die
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King; / We'll reign with Him

\*Refrain\*

## Words of Confession

Confession means we are completely honest with God and others about our flaws and failures. Instead of hiding in shame or pride, we admit our sin, and open ourselves to God's mercy.

### Psalm 130:1-8

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive / to the voice of my pleas for mercy! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! / For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. / And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

## Song of Confession - "I Will Wait for You"

1

Out of the depths I cry to You; / From darkest places I will call. Incline Your ear to me anew, / And hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

2

Were You to count my sinful ways / How could I come before Your throne? Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze / I stand redeemed by grace alone.

Refrain

I will wait for You, I will wait for You, / On Your word I will rely. I will wait for You, surely wait for You / Till my soul is satisfied.

3

So put Your hope in God alone, / Take courage in His power to save; Completely and forever won / By Christ emerging from the grave.

4

His steadfast love has made a way, / And God Himself has paid the price, That all who trust in Him today / Find healing in his sacrifice.

Refrain

## **Assurance of Pardon**

### Psalm 145:14, 17-18

The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

## Prayer

Prayer is talking to God—declaring our desire for his glory, confessing our sins, thanking him for his boundless grace, and bringing to him our concerns for ourselves, others, the church, and the world.

Gospel partner: G. S. & Sarah Nair (India)

Civil servant: Byron Champlin (Mayor of Concord, NH)

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen*.

# Song of Assurance - "Still, My Soul, Be Still"

The song of assurance reminds us that forgiveness of our sins, comfort in our trials, and hope for future blessings, God fully and gladly gives us through Jesus Christ.

1

Still, my soul be still / And do not fear
Though winds of change may rage tomorrow
God is at your side / No longer dread
The fires of unexpected sorrow

Refrain

God, You are my God / And I will trust in You and not be shaken Lord of peace renew / A steadfast spirit within me / To rest in You alone

2

Still, my soul be still / Do not be moved
By lesser lights and fleeting shadows
Hold onto His ways / With shield of faith
Against temptation's flaming arrows

Refrain

3

Still, my soul be still / Do not forsake
The truth you learned in the beginning
Wait upon the Lord / And hope will rise
As stars appear when day is dimming

## Song of Preparation - "Be Thou My Vision"

1

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art Thou my best thought, by day or by night Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

2

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

3

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

4

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

# Scripture Reading

## Ephesians 4:17-5:2

<sup>17</sup>Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup>But that is not the way you learned Christ!— <sup>21</sup>assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. <sup>25</sup> Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. . . <sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

### Sermon

"Anger: Good and Bad" Ephesians 4:26-27, 31

Anger is like a sharp blade: it can either wound like a dagger or be used as a surgeon's scalpel to cut for healing. Unfortunately, we often fail to understand this difference. So when we feel angry, we are unprepared to deal with it. This passage teaches us how a new "self" created by Christ, gives us the proper perspective on anger, informing and enabling us to see the difference between right and wrong anger, and to deal with the anger in our lives.

#### Sermon Notes

# Song of Response - "A Christian's Daily Prayer"

1

As morning dawns and day awakes / To You, I bring my need Oh, gracious God, my source of strength / In You, I live and breathe Each hour is Yours, by wisdom planned / Each deed empowr'd by sovereign hands

Renew my spirit, help me stand / Be glorified today

2

As day unfolds, I seek Your will / In all of life's demands And though the tempter tries me still / I cling to Your commands Let every effort of my life / Display the matchless worth of Christ Make me a living sacrifice / Be glorified today

3

As sun gives way to darkest night / Your Spirit still is here And though my strength fades like the light / New mercies will appear I rest in You, abide with me / Until our trials and suffering Give way to final victory / Be glorified today

I rest in You, abide with me / Until our trials and suffering Give way to final victory / Be glorified today / Be glorified, I pray

# Benediction

The benediction declares the reality of God's favor and presence with us as we prepare to leave.

## Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

#### Resources

#### **Dealing with Anger: A Biblical Perspective**

(Adapted from Lou Priolo, *The Heart of Anger: Practical Help for Prevention and Cure of Anger in Children*)

#### What is Anger?

- Anger is a God-given emotion, meant to alert us to something wrong.
- Sinful anger arises when we selfishly respond to not getting what we want, losing control of thoughts, words, or actions.
- Righteous anger focuses on God's glory and opposes sin.

| Sinful Anger                 | Righteous Anger                    |  |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Motivated by selfish desires | Motivated by God's glory           |  |  |
| When I don't get what I want | When God doesn't get what He wants |  |  |
| I am lord of my life         | Christ is Lord of my life          |  |  |

## **Steps to Address Anger Biblically**

- 1. **Pause and Reflect -** Stay silent during provocation to consider a God-honoring response.
- 2. Think Biblically Identify whether your anger is sinful or righteous.
- 3. **Control Your Actions -** Manage your thoughts, words, body language, and countenance.
- 4. **Use an Anger Journal:** Reflect on situations, responses, and biblical corrections.

### **Anger Journal Questions**

- 1. What happened to provoke my anger?
- 2. How did I respond?
- 3. What does the Bible say about my response?
- 4. How should I have responded?