

*the*  
Practice



Learning *the*  
Unforced Rhythms  
*of* Grace

ORDER *of* PRACTICE  
February 14th, 2016



Willow Creek Chapel

**Please speak, Your servant is listening  
Please speak, Your servant is listening  
Please speak, Your servant is listening  
Your servant is listening  
O Hosanna**

*from 1 Samuel 3:7-11*



We come as those hungry...

**hungry for God's word.**

We come as those thirsty...

**thirsty for God's spirit.**

We come as those broken...

**seeking the healing that God provides.**

We come as those in need...

**needing reminders of God's love.**

We come as those longing...

**longing for God's kingdom to come.**

**I want Jesus to walk with me**

**I want Jesus to walk with me**

**All along my journey**

**I want Jesus to walk with me**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me**

**When strength is failing**

**I want Jesus to walk with me**

**In my sorrows, Lord walk with me**

**In my sorrows, Lord walk with me**

**When my heart is aching**

**I want Jesus to walk with me**

**In my troubles, Lord walk with me**

**In my troubles, Lord walk with me**

**When my life seems a burden**

**I want Jesus to walk with me**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

We cry out to you, O God, in the name of Jesus.

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the LORD, “My refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust.”

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

No evil shall befall you, nor affliction come near your tent, for to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways.

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

Upon their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the asp and the viper; you shall trample down the lion and the dragon.

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

Because he clings to me, I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in distress; I will deliver him and glorify him.

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

*(Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15)*

**I want Jesus to walk with me**

**I want Jesus to walk with me**

**All along my journey**

**I want Jesus to walk with me**

NT READING

Brothers and sisters, what does Scripture say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, or, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:8-13)

**You hear us calling**  
**You hear us calling, O Creator**

*(repeat)*

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy**  
**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy**

#### CONFESSION

Receive us, O God, as a fearful and broken people. Receive us in our false pride and shattered humanity.

**Keep us from falling**  
**Keep us from falling, O Creator.**

Embrace us in our bewilderment and anxiety. Save us from the wrong we do and the evil we allow.

**Keep us from falling**  
**Keep us from falling, O Creator.**

Tame our rebellion and strengthen our faith, establish your reign among us. For we need courage beyond us to live more fully as your people.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy.**  
**Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy.**

#### Silence

*(Space to confess our sin to God  
and wait in God's presence.)*

#### ASSURANCE

Receive God's words from Psalm 103:

"I am compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. I will not always accuse, nor harbor anger forever; I will not treat you as your sins deserve or repay you according to your iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so high is my love for you. As far as the east is from the west, so far have I removed your sins from you."

#### Silence

*(Space to say "thank You" to God)*

**Your love never fails, never gives up  
Never runs out on me**

*(repeat)*

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, in view of the great love and mercy you have shown us, we pray for our world.

**You hear us calling,  
You hear us calling, O Creator.**

We plead before you Jesus, for all tonight who are in need of your merciful love and protection.

For our families, friends, neighbors and enemies; that being freed from sin, doubt, and despair, we may live in the fullness of your perfect peace, hope and love.

**You hear us calling,  
You hear us calling, O Creator.**

We pray for the many names that a broken world has in our time: For the migrant crisis to be met with wisdom and compassion...

For our political elections to have a respectful discourse worthy of our high ideals...

For racial justice to be a vocation to more than minority communities...

For economic markets that determine the livelihoods of so many...

For systems of terror and violence to give way to the power of peace...

And for our role as Good Samaritans to those in our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities.

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy**

We pray humbly for our collective enemies who are your beloved creations. We beseech you, Lord that you would give us eyes to see the Imago Dei, the image of God, in those who oppose us, those who persecute us, those who vote differently from us, those who stand against the justice we seek, those who practice a different religion, those who shun reconciliation, and those who speak a different language and hail from a different land.

**You hear us calling,  
You hear us calling, O Creator.**

We pray for our personal enemies who make living a life of love so difficult, yet who provide the opportunity for radical love to which you have personally called us. We pray for wisdom, compassion, and healing for those individuals who heap on us unbearable burdens offering unspeakable gifts, grinding us like wheat.

**You hear us calling,  
You hear us calling, O Creator.**

We pray that we would know in our heart of hearts the extension of your infinite love. Please help us to be your hands and feet in building a Kingdom of Peace. We ask that your divine power would reunite all that custom and ignorance have divided. May we live the truth that all people are sisters and brothers under the widespread wings of your grace

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy**



### Passing of the Peace

*“The peace of Christ be with you.”  
“And also with you.”*



Jonathan Martin  
*An Invitation to Lament*

## Lectio Divina

### Psalm 6

Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger  
or discipline me in your wrath.  
Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint;  
heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.  
My soul is in deep anguish.  
How long, Lord, how long?  
Turn, Lord, and deliver me;  
save me because of your unfailing love.  
Among the dead no one proclaims your name.  
Who praises you from the grave?  
I am worn out from my groaning.  
All night long I flood my bed with weeping  
and drench my couch with tears.  
My eyes grow weak with sorrow;  
they fail because of all my foes.  
Away from me, all you who do evil,  
for the Lord has heard my weeping.  
The Lord has heard my cry for mercy;  
the Lord accepts my prayer.  
All my enemies will be overwhelmed  
with shame and anguish;  
they will turn back and  
suddenly be put to shame.

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me  
In my trials, Lord, walk with me  
When strength is failing  
I want Jesus to walk with me**

**In my sorrows, Lord walk with me  
In my sorrows, Lord walk with me  
When my heart is aching  
I want Jesus to walk with me**

**In my troubles, Lord walk with me  
In my troubles, Lord walk with me  
When my life seems a burden  
I want Jesus to walk with me**

**I want Jesus to walk with me  
I want Jesus to walk with me  
All along my journey  
I want Jesus to walk with me**

## COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being; sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Lord God Almighty**

**Early in the morning**

**Our song shall rise to Thee**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Merciful and Mighty**

**God in Three persons, blessed Trinity**

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again.**

Now gathered at our table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us with all your Saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever

**AMEN.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

### Holy Communion

*(When you are ready, please come forward, share your name, and hold your hands open to receive communion.)*

*\*\*A gluten free option is available at the piano.*



**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

**Hallelujah! What a Friend!**

**Saving, helping, keeping, loving.**

**He is with us to the end.**

**Jesus! What a Friend for sinners!**

**Jesus! Lover of our souls.**

**Friends may fail us, foes assail us;**

**He's our Savior, makes us whole.**

**Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
Hallelujah! What a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving.  
He is with us to the end.**

**Jesus! What a Strength in weakness!  
Let us hide ourselves in Him;  
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,  
He, our Strength, our victory wins.**

**Hallelujah! What a Savior....**

**Jesus! what a Help in sorrow!  
While the billows over us roll,  
Even when our hearts are breaking,  
He, our Comfort, helps our souls.**

**Jesus! We do now receive Him,  
More than all in Him we find.  
May His Kingdom come on Earth and,  
May our lives to His align.**

**Hallelujah! What a Savior....**

**Doxology**



**Kingdom Practices**

**Benediction**

The prayer team is available (near the chapel stage)  
for any who want prayer after the gathering.



*“Please Speak” by Aaron Niequist. // “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”. Spiritual. Public Domain. // “Prayers of The People” by The Brilliance. Used by permission. // “Holy, Holy, Holy” by Reginald Heber and John B. Dykes. Public Domain. // “Our Great Savior” by Chapman and Prichard. // “One Thing Remains” by By Brian Johnson, Jeremy Riddle and Christa Black. CCLI#5032549.*

The Practice is an experimental community learning to align the rhythms of our lives with God's eternal rhythms. We long to become the kinds of people who can put Jesus' words into practice, for the sake of the world.



We seek to be:

**KINGDOM-FOCUSED.**

Jesus has invited every one of us to join Him in healing and redeeming this world. Through the scriptures, story, and worship, we want to align ourselves with this good work.

**EQUIPPERS.**

According to Eph 4, the church exists to equip the people for ministry. Sunday night is not the main event, but a training ground to become the kinds of people who can live our actual lives the way Jesus would if He were in our place.

**PRACTICE-BASED.**

More of a spiritual gymnasium than classroom. The focus is on the practices and disciplines that form us into Christlikeness.

**ECUMENICAL.**

Relentlessly committed to humbly learning from other Christian traditions and practices.

**EUCCHARISTIC.**

Every gathering will culminate with communion to weekly anchor us in Christ's death, resurrection, and promise of return.

**COMMUNITY.**

The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone. We need each other.

*A part of the Willow Creek community.*



[practicetribe.com](http://practicetribe.com)