

the
Practice



Learning *the*
Unforced Rhythms
of Grace

ORDER *of* PRACTICE
August 7th, 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



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Creator and Lover of all You have made, thank You for the gift of gathering in Your name. You are here, as You are everywhere; and together, swimming in Your benevolent presence, we humbly join our voices to say:

**Blessed are those who get swept up
in the Great River of God.**

Exalt, you just, in the LORD; praise from the upright is fitting. Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

**Blessed are those who get swept up
in the Great River of God.**

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, to deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine.

**Blessed are those who get swept up
in the Great River of God.**

Our soul waits for the LORD, who is our help and our shield. May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us who have put our hope in you.

**Blessed are those who get swept up
in the Great River of God.**

(Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22)

**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.**

**Be Thou my Wisdom & Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;**

**Thou my great Maker, I Thy true one,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.**

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

**Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! "What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?" says the LORD; "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

"When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation-- I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

"Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."

“Come now, let us argue it out”, says the LORD:
“though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be
like snow; though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.

“If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat
the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword; for the
mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

(Isaiah 1:1, 10-20)

Silence

*(Space to listen to God speak through this
text as we prepare for confession.)*

Please speak, O God, Your servants are listening.

CONFESSION

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have
sinned against you in thought, word, and
deed, by what we have done, and by what
we have left undone. We have not loved you
with our whole heart; we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly
sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake
of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us
and forgive us; that we may delight in your
will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of
your Name. Amen.**

Silence

*(Space to name your sin and
wait in God's presence.)*

ASSURANCE

Hear the words of Christ our Savior:

**“Come to me, come to me.
All you weary and heavy laden
I will give you rest.”**

**God so loved the world He gave
His only begotten Son
That whosoever believes in Him
Shall have everlasting life.**

GOSPEL READING

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

(Luke 12:32-40)

**God so loved the world He gave
His only begotten Son
That whosoever believes in Him
Shall have everlasting life.**

**Hear the words of Christ our Savior:
“Come to me, come to me.
All you weary and heavy laden
I will give you rest.”**

**Come, Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the Mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,
hither by Thy help I'm come.
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger
wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
interposed His precious blood.**

**O to grace, how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above**



Passing of the Peace

*"The peace of Christ be with you."
"And also with you."*



Welcome / Upcoming

Praying for the World through Images

Kellye Fabian

[Image one and two]

Silent prayer

God, you weep. Allow us to weep.
Open our eyes to see the pain.
Open our hearts to love the hurting.
Guide us now as we pray.

Group prayer

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

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

[Image three]

Silent prayer

God, you restore. You heal. You redeem.
Thank you for helping us see your kingdom.
Thank you showing us how to love your children
Guide us now as we seek to join you.

Group prayer

May your kingdom come.
May your will be done.
May your will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven

We refuse to be each other's enemy
We can overcome, we can overcome
When we listen to other's point of view
We can overcome, we can overcome

Love shall overcome
Love shall overcome
(repeat)

[Image four and five]

Silent prayer

God, you weep. Allow us to weep.
Open our eyes to see the pain.
Open our hearts to love the hurting.
Guide us now as we pray.

Group prayer

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

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

[Image six]

Silent prayer

God, you restore. You heal. You redeem.
Thank you for helping us see your kingdom.
Thank you showing us how to love your children
Guide us now as we seek to join you.

Group prayer

May your kingdom come.
May your will be done.
May your will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven

We refuse to be each other's enemy
We can overcome, we can overcome
When we listen to other's point of view
We can overcome, we can overcome

Love shall overcome
Love shall overcome
Love shall overcome
Love shall overcome

(repeat)

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:

**God so loved the world He gave
His only begotten Son
That whosoever believes in Him
Shall have everlasting life.**

Hear the words of Christ our Savior:

“Come to me, come to me.

All you weary and heavy laden

I will give you rest.”

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.*



Thank you for hearing me *(repeat)*

Thank you for finding me *(repeat)*

Thank you for healing me *(repeat)*

Thank you for loving me *(repeat)*



Kingdom Practices

August 14th:

A Theology & Practice of “The Other”
(Michael Rudzena)

Grill on the patio afterward

[August 21st: no gathering]

August 28th:

Practice Community Retreat
8-5pm, Bellarmine Retreat House
Fr Michael, Joan & Gail
Registration is \$50 and opens today at
practicetribe.com/retreat2016

[September 4th: no gathering]

September 11th: Begin Fall Journey



Benediction: Melissa Greene

“Rise Up”



“Please Speak” by Aaron Niequist. // “Be Thou My Vision” by Public Domain. // “Comfortable Words” by Andy Piercy. // “Come Thou Fount” by Public Domain. // “Lord Have Mercy” and “We Shall Overcome” by The Brilliance. Used with permission. // “Rise Up” recorded by Andra Day. Written by Batie and Decilveo. ©2015 Gold Songs...// 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