

the
Practice



Learning *the*
Unforced Rhythms
of Grace

ORDER *of* PRACTICE
September 18th, 2016



Willow Creek Chapel

A WORD ABOUT TONIGHT'S LITURGY:

Most Sundays, our liturgy is based on four readings from the Revised Common Lectionary--the shared ordering of scripture texts based on the church calendar. In this way, we align our journey with the wider, global church.

But this fall, as we learn to practice the Beatitudes, we'll take a break from the lectionary and fully immerse ourselves in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Tonight we begin with the first third of this famous sermon--all of Matthew 5. Notice the sections that resonate and speak into your life today.

Notice the sections that feel disconnected or uncomfortable. What does God want to say through this beautiful and challenging teaching?

Please speak, O Lord, Your servants are listening...



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

MATTHEW 5

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:

Speaking & Embodying the Nine Beats

We hear You calling
We hear You calling
O Creator

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

We hear You calling
We hear You calling
O Creator

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

We hear You calling
We hear You calling
O Creator

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

Keep us from falling
Keep us from falling
O Creator

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Keep us from falling

Keep us from falling

O Creator

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Silent Listening & Responding

*God, who am I angry with--or is angry with me? How are
You inviting me to go and be reconciled with them?*

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.”

Silent Listening & Responding

*God, what have I been lusting after this week?
Whether sexual or otherwise, what have I been
chasing to satisfy my deepest longing and ache?*

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

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.

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."

We hear You calling
We hear You calling
O Creator

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Silent Listening & Responding

God, who have I allowed to become my enemy? Please bless them draw them close to You today. May Your sun continue to rise and warm them...

**This is our Father’s world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.**

**This is our Father’s world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is our Father’s world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker’s praise.**

**This is our Father’s world:
he shines in all that’s fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is our Father’s world.
O let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.**

**This is our Father’s world!
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died,
shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav’n be one.**

**This is our Father's world:
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!**



Passing of the Peace

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



**The Beatitudes:
Blessed are the Poor in Spirit**
John Perrine and Lori Shoults

...

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.*

**This is our Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.**

**This is our Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is our Father's world,
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And earth and heav'n be one.**

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Kingdom Practices

Benediction



*"Please Speak" by Aaron Niequist. // "Prayers of the People" by
The Brilliance. Used with permission. // "This is My Father's
World" by Maltbie D. Babcock. Public Domain.*

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.



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