

the
Practice



Learning *the*
Unforced Rhythms
of Grace

ORDER *of* PRACTICE
May 10, 2015



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



Let us give thanks to God for all the gifts
so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation,
in earth and sky and sea.

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and
women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes
and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love,
and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work,
and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are
patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all
times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great
mercies and promises given to us in
Christ Jesus our Lord;

**To Christ be praise and glory, with you,
O God, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.**



**God our Father
Giver of daily bread
Blessing our hands and covering our heads**

**God our Mother
Leading us into peace
Drawing and comforting all those in need**

**Hallowed, hallowed be thy name
Hallowed, hallowed be thy name
Hallowed, hallowed be thy name
in all the earth**

**Jesus, brother, guiding our very step
Deliver us and grant places of rest**

**Jesus, savior, grabbing us from the grave
Cheating the fall & bringing the light of day**



NOTE ABOUT TONIGHT:

God is Spirit and does not have a gender. Rather, God transcends but still chooses to include gender. In God's image, God made both male and female. This means that in the images of both men and women, we see the likeness and the image of God. We often focus on the masculine likeness of God as Father, which is absolutely true. And yet tonight, in light of Mother's day, we want to honor the divine and mothering images of God.



**God revealed in...
Image of the womb**

*(Deut. 32:18, Job 38:8, Job 38:28-29, Isaiah 42:14,
Isaiah 46:3-4, John 1:12, John 4:7, John 16:21,
Acts 17, Gal 4:19, Romans 8:22)*

Space for reflection

God our Mother

Leading us into peace

Drawing and comforting all those in need

Hallowed, hallowed be thy name

Hallowed, hallowed be thy name

Hallowed, hallowed be thy name

in all the earth

God revealed in...

Image of mothering nurture

COMMUNAL READING

Nurturing, powerful Protector,

You are as a mother eagle, hovering over her nest, (*Deut 32:11-12*). You grant us refuge in the shadow of your wings, (*Ps 57:1*)

You descend upon our enemies as a mother bear robbed of her cubs, (*Hosea 13:8*)

Give us grace to trust and stay by your side.

Loving, comforting Caregiver,

You comfort us as mother, who comforts her child, (*Isaiah 66:10-13*) You desire to gather us, your children, together, (*Luke 13:34*) Like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, (*Matt 23:37*)

Grant that we may rest in the comfort of your wings.

Compassionate, patient Nurturer,

You gave birth to us and have carried us from the womb, You have been carrying us on your back from the day we were born, You always have, and you always will be there, carrying us, saving us. (*Isaiah 46:3*)

Fill us with thanks for your steadfast love.

Tender, Sustainer of life,

You value and seek us out as a woman tirelessly sweeping for her lost coin, (*Luke 15:8*) You nestle and nurture us in your bosom, (*Numbers 11:12*)

You nurse and satisfy us at your breast, (*Is 49:15*)

Help us to find our value in your embrace.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the maternal care and love of God.

**Hallowed, hallowed be thy name
Hallowed, hallowed be thy name
Hallowed, hallowed be thy name
in all the earth**

God revealed in...
Image of motherhood

*(Isaiah 66:10-13, Luke 13:34, Matt 23:37,
Hosea 13:8, Hosea 11:34, Deut 32:11-12)*

Reflection / Sharing

**Hallowed, hallowed be thy name
Hallowed, hallowed be thy name
Hallowed, hallowed be thy name
in all the earth**

Blessing of Mothers



Passing of the Peace

*“The Peace of the Lord be with you”
“And also with you”*



Lynne Hybels
Broken Open for Peace

Reflection



CONFESSION

Receive us, O God, as a fearful and broken people. Receive us in our false pride and shattered humanity. Embrace us in our bewilderment and anxiety. Save us from the wrong we do and the evil we allow. 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.

Space for Silent Confession

ASSURANCE

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
God will not always accuse, nor harbor anger
forever; The Lord does not treat us as our sins
deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is God's love for those who honor him;
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has the Lord removed our
transgressions from us.
As a mother has compassion on her children,
so the Lord has compassion on those
who fear her. *(Psalm 103:8-13)*

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 come to the table because we
are perpetually invited.

**We come to the table celebrating
that God comes near to us.**

**We come to the table acknowledging our
participation with God and with others.**

**We come to the table remembering and
proclaiming God's story centered on
Jesus' life, death and resurrection.
We come to the table anticipating God's
healing in our own lives and of the
whole world.**

Pastoral Prayer

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died

Christ has risen

Christ will come again.

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.*



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. // "God Our Mother" by
The Brilliance. Used with permission.*

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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