

the
Practice



Learning *the*
Unforced Rhythms
of Grace

ORDER *of* PRACTICE
September 20th, 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



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.

PSALM READING

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked. They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.” *(Psalm 1:1-6)*

Be Thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart
Nought 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, be Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Maker and I Thy true one
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

**Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise
Thou my inheritance through all of my days
Thou and Thou only though 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 Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.**

NT READING

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” *(James 3:13-18, 4:1-3)*

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

Holy Space to Listen

(Take a moment to read the James passage again, slowly and prayerfully, and humbly ask God to speak to you through it.)

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

CONFESSION

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

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

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 name and
confess our sin to God.)*

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."

**Thank You, Father
Thank You, Maker
Hallelujah**

Thank You, Jesus
Thank You, Savior
Hallelujah

Thank You, Teacher
Holy Spirit
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 cry out to you on behalf of the millions in Syria and around the world who are fleeing, forced to leave everything behind, with no promise of safety or security. We mourn for those whose lives have been taken; for the life of Aylan Kurdi, whose photo has made the crisis immediate for so many, and for the unseen children he represents.

Remind us that we didn't earn our comfort and privilege, so that we don't take the option of turning our prayers and advocacy away from this crisis. Forgive us for being paralyzed by numbness or fear, and help us to care for the foreign wanderer, as you have commanded. Let us respond as if it were our children on those boats, our sisters and brothers and parents fighting for their lives. As if it were us.

God, we beg, your kingdom come. Move in ways we don't understand. Bring peace, protection, and an outpouring of wisdom for world leaders.

For all people who have been displaced, Lord...

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

For the division that plagues our nation, Lord, reflected in our politics, in the media, and in our social structures. Help us not to make scapegoats out of other individuals or people groups, and to not buy into the notion that we are so very different from one another. Remind us that you have called us to be a community that bears each other's burdens.

For the systemic racism that continues to thrive in our nation, Lord, and for the people who have suffered at the hands of it. We ask for eyes to be opened to the injustice that prevails. And for the complacency that keeps a hold on those who unconsciously and consciously benefit from these structures to be shaken off.

Forgive us for the legacy that persists because we accepted the false notion that you broke the humanity you created into different races, with some inferior to others. Forgive us for creating division and inequality among ourselves when you have called us to live differently.

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

We lift up those who have been made to feel unwelcome in your church by the actions and attitudes of some within it. Regardless of our personal interpretation of your word, Lord, forgive us for our insistence that ours is the only correct one.

For our LGBTQ neighbors, family members, and those who are a part of our church community, O Lord, let them know that they are known and loved. Help us to live out that love. And, as you have commanded us, help us to not neglect what you call the most important matters of your law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

For all people who have been made to feel unwelcome even in our own community,

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

For this gathering of people and believers
everywhere who pray for God's Kingdom to
come and God's will be done,

And for the peace and unity of the local and
global Church of God; For all who proclaim
the Gospel, and nations who seek the Truth.

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

**Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah**

**Praise God on high
Praise God on high
Praise God on high**

**Your will be done
Earth as Heaven
Amen, Amen
Amen, Amen
Amen, Amen**



Passing of the Peace

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



Ruth Haley Barton
Sacred Rhythms

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:

Praise God on high

Praise God on high

Praise God on high

Hallelujah

Hallelujah

Hallelujah

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 has 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.)



Thank you for hearing me. *(repeat)*

Thank you for healing me. *(repeat)*

Thank you for saving me. *(repeat)*

Thank you for loving me. *(repeat)*

**Thank You, Father
Thank You, Maker
Hallelujah**

**Thank You, Jesus
Thank You, Savior
Hallelujah**

**Thank You, Teacher
Holy Spirit
Hallelujah**

**Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah**



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 // "Be Thou My Vision".
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Niequist. // "Thank You for Hearing Me" by Sinead OConnor.*

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