



‘Worship at home’ Sunday October 20th 2024



We set this time aside to worship God, and
to consider how we live as disciples,
serving God and others.

Opening

What would God have us do?

What gifts do we have that can serve God?

Lord, guide our lives and our service.

Lord, call us to ministries of hope and promise.

Help us, O Lord, to look beyond words.

Help us, O Lord, to see ways of service.

Open our hearts and our spirits this day
to receive your guidance.

***Help us to be people who will bring good news
to those in darkness and doubt.***

Come, let us worship God with joyful hearts

Let us praise God with thanks and praise.

- adapted from the United Methodist Church

Do you see yourself as a leader?

A follower?

A servant?

**Reflect on various ways you offer
service to others**

– in your home, your community, your church.

What gifts and skills do you bring?

True leadership is
servanthood. Put
the interests of
others at the center
of your decisions.

Most of us find there are situations where we offer leadership, even if we do not see ourselves as leaders. When there are others who trust us enough to come to us for a listening ear, or practical support, we are showing leadership. We each have an influence over those around us, in many different ways.

Some people equate leadership with power, privilege or merit. Some who identify as 'leaders' feel they are more important than those around them because of their unique role or skills. Equally, some who see themselves as 'servants' feel they should deserve more recognition because of how hard they have worked or the sacrifices they have made.

Jesus reminds us that it is not what we do, but how we serve, and our relationships with God and with others, that are important in the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:35-45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

"We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant

with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

New International Version



What do you think makes for good leadership?

In times of crisis and uncertainty, we would look to leaders who can be clear and decisive, and who are people of integrity who we can trust. How we long for leaders like this in our church, our nation, and our world! We may also have appreciated times when leaders have been able to admit mistakes, or to show their vulnerability.

**If serving
is below
you,
leadership
is beyond
you.**

Leadership is not always about imposing a certain direction or philosophy on others. Leadership is about influence, not authority. Leadership is a privilege that is given by others when they trust enough to choose to follow.

Jesus reminds us that the true leader shows humility and love, and always puts others first. With leadership comes responsibility, and limitations. A wise leader understand this, and focusses on serving others rather than claiming power or authority.

True
LEADERS
have a
servant's
heart.
@christinecaine

The God Who Serves
Though you are God,
with all the influence and status that the name implies,
you refused to pull rank,
and parade your power among us.

Instead, you chose to step down into our experience,
living among us, as one of us,
with all the struggle and suffering
that goes with being human.

More than that, you adopted the role of slave,
washing feet, serving people of no reputation or social standing,
and giving of yourself completely.

As incredible as it sounds,
you are the God who serves,
and we can respond in no other way
than to give ourselves to you in praise.

Amen. ~ John van de Laar, Sacredise.com 3

We are called to follow Christ. This means trying to live as he lived, to take seriously his teachings and follow his example. It means putting ourselves aside and being prepared to go where he calls us. It might mean drinking a cup of suffering, taking up our cross, giving up our riches, or leaving behind that which we hold dear, even our privilege and power. However, following Christ isn't only about what we do and how we serve. Following Christ means we live in God's grace, even when we are imperfect, and what we do does not seem enough. Following Christ is about what Christ has done for us, as much as it is about what we do for Christ. We are promised fullness of life in God's love and grace, which surpasses anything else we might think important.

Prayer

Loving God, you call us to be the body of Christ: to live in community, to care for one another, and to use our different gifts, serving in love. We each do this in different ways, out of who we are, and you call us to do so in love and humility and grace. Help us to look out for others: to truly put their needs first, and to give of ourselves, our time and our resources, not only as we feel able, but sacrificially. May we see each person as your beloved child, worthy and loved. Help us also to know that we too are worthy and loved, and that who we are is enough, in you. We live in your grace, and for this we give thanks. Amen



Closing: 1 Peter 4:8-11

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

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