

ZF Sunday Morning Worship Guide for March 22

How to Use This Guide

Dave Smith has graciously provided the following guide to enrich our Sunday worship. Actively engage with this guide - read each part aloud, taking turns if you are with others. Sing along to all of the songs. Families with children - use this whole guide as a family. We recognize that singing along to the songs may be easier than getting your children to remain focused during Drew's message. So, consider printing off one of [these resources](#) to help your younger children and/or middle schoolers.

Welcome

Good morning Zionsville Fellowship. This is John Supica writing this part of the guide, and I really long for us to be together again! Though we cannot physically gather together as a church family this morning, we can still take a moment to pause our lives, focus in the midst of countless distractions, and worship Jesus together while we are scattered near and far.

Right now, we are living in the midst of a situation none of us could have predicted at the start of this year. During these difficult times, we all need to see the beauty of Jesus afresh. We need God to strengthen us, encourage us, and equip us for the difficult moments ahead of us. We need God's Spirit to empower us as we seek to be faithful disciples who make disciples, even in the midst of social distancing. This means that we depend upon God to do this work in us this morning, and we express that dependency now through this prayer:

Father, we need you. We always need you, but we are more deeply aware of our neediness as these events related to COVID-19 unfold around us and around the globe. Father, we know that you are the source of all comfort and strength and joy and hope, so we look to you in this moment for those realities. Strengthen and encourage our hearts for all that you have for us in the days and moments to come. Cause us to see the beauty of Jesus afresh in your Word. We pray this is his precious name. Amen.

Dave Smith has graciously provided the following guide to help evoke fresh joy and hope and courage in our hearts as we reflect on Jesus - who he is, what he has done, and who he calls us to be. And he begins with a precious reminder about God's heart as shepherd of his people from Psalm 23.

Scripture Reading

Our Scripture reading is Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Singing

Come People of the Risen King

This is a wonderful song to unite our hearts together this morning. We lift our eyes to the risen King whose “steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in.” His perfect love will never change and his mercies never cease – they are new every morning! Let’s sing [*Come People of the Risen King*](#).

God Be Merciful to Me

In light of God’s abundant mercy, we want to maintain a posture of repentance and confess our sins regularly to the Lord, knowing that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:9). This song helps us to confess our sin using David’s words from Psalm 51. After we sing a few verses, let’s all pause the recording and take time to personally confess our sins to the Lord. Let’s sing [*God Be Merciful to Me*](#).

It Is Well With My Soul

Lastly, we can boldly sing *It is Well With My Soul*. Why? Because Christ has regarded our helpless estate and has shed *His own blood* for our souls. Our sin has been nailed to the cross and we bear it no more – praise the Lord! Especially now, when we are feeling the effects of the fall in this world, we look forward to the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds shall be rolled back as a scroll, and “the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” (1 Thess 4:16-17). Let’s sing [*It is Well With My Soul*](#).

Prayer

Father, thank you that you are the “God of Hope” (Rom 15:13). We pray that you would fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope. And we pray that our hope in you would be a bright, shining light to the world around us during this difficult time of fear and uncertainty, so that many people will be

drawn to you in repentance and faith in the midst of this darkness. We pray in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Fellowship Time

That's right, we can still do fellowship! Who is the first brother or sister in Christ who comes to mind? Take a moment now and send them a brief text/email/call/facetime... encourage them, and see how you can be praying for them.

Sermon

Psalm 4

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.

- ¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- ² O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah*
- ³ But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;
the Lord hears when I call to him.
- ⁴ Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*
- ⁵ Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the Lord.
- ⁶ There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!"
- ⁷ You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- ⁸ In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Benediction