

## WORSHIP HANDOUT

August 9, 2020

Series: For Such a Time, Lessons from Esther



### OPENING OF WORSHIP

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study continues on Zoom on Tuesday evenings.

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Never put your trust in princes or politicians,  
nor in any child of earth's dust, for they cannot help you.  
No matter how important, they stop breathing like the rest of us,  
on that day their schemes perish and return to the earth

**P: Happy are those whose help comes from the God of Jacob,  
whose hope rests in the God of Christ Jesus.**

**This is the One who makes and sustains heaven and earth,  
who keeps faith with us forever.**

### HYMN

God will take care of you I 30

### TIME OF PRAYER

#### GUIDED TIME OF PRAYER

#### **Prayer of Confession**

(inspired by Esther, Mark 9:38-50)

Today, O God, we ponder what you say to us through scripture  
and wonder what has changed. In the story of Esther, we hear  
about the abuse of power and the exploitation of women. We

learn about the planned destruction of foreigners in the land. Each of these issues concern the use of power to take advantage of those who are powerless - major causes still of people being denied the possibility of experiencing lives of dignity and worth.

**Forgive us if our actions, or lack of action,  
have contributed to continuing powerlessness in people's  
lives.**

*(A time of silence to contemplate these words.)*

In today's gospel reading the disciples want to make decisions about "who's in" and "who's out" among Jesus' followers. It sounds all too familiar as we often make similar decisions on the basis of people's theology; their sexual preference; their cultural background; their political stance.... *(conclude with local examples).*

**Forgive us if our actions, or lack of action,  
have contributed to whether people feel welcomed into,  
or excluded from, our fellowship.**

*(A time of silence to contemplate these words.)*

Jesus declares that those who are welcoming and caring and do not cause others to stumble, are indeed blessed. We are to be 'salted' with the purifying influence of the Holy Spirit, so that we shall not be contaminated by selfishness and self-seeking, by resentment and anger and envy.

**Forgive us if our actions, or lack of action,**

**have contributed to whether we are “salty” followers of Jesus or not.**

*(A time of silence to contemplate these words.)*

Strengthen us all to witness to our faith  
**with a freshness that attracts;**  
a sincerity that convinces,  
**and an integrity which confirms our allegiance to Christ,**  
**in whose name we pray. Amen**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness** (James 5:13-20)

*James entreats us to “confess our sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that we may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)*

We have confessed our sins to one another, and to God,  
and we believe that prayer is powerful and effective.  
In that belief, I declare to you,  
in Jesus Christ we are healed and forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**TIME OF SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For  
thine is the kingdom and the power and glory forever.  
Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### LESSON 1      CEB

Esther 5:1-8

Three days later, Esther put on royal clothes and stood in the inner courtyard of the palace, facing the palace itself. At that moment the king was inside sitting on his royal throne and facing the palace doorway. <sup>2</sup> When the king noticed Queen Esther standing in the entry court, he was pleased. The king held out to Esther the gold scepter in his hand, and she came forward and touched the scepter's tip.

<sup>3</sup> Then the king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What do you want? I'll give you anything—even half the kingdom."

<sup>4</sup> Esther answered, "If the king wishes, please come today with Haman for the feast that I have prepared for him."

<sup>5</sup> "Hurry, get Haman," the king ordered, "so we can do what Esther says." So the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared. <sup>6</sup> As they sipped wine, the king asked, "Now what is it you wish? I'll give it to you. What do you want? I'll do anything—even give you half the kingdom."

<sup>7</sup> Esther answered, "This is my wish and this is what I want: <sup>8</sup> If I please the king, and if the king wishes to grant my wish and my desire, I'd like the king and Haman to come to another feast that I will prepare for them. Tomorrow I will answer the king's questions."

### LESSON 2      CEB

Esther 5:9-14

That day Haman left Esther's place happy, his spirits high, but then he saw Mordecai in the King's Gate. Mordecai neither stood up nor seemed the least bit nervous around him, so Haman suddenly felt great rage toward Mordecai. <sup>10</sup> But Haman held himself back and went on home. He sent word that his friends and his wife Zeresh should join him there. <sup>11</sup> Haman boasted to them about his great wealth and his many sons. He told all about how the king had honored him by

promoting him over the officials and high royal workers. <sup>12</sup>“Best of all,” Haman said, “Queen Esther has invited no one else but me to join the king for food and drinks that she has prepared. In fact, I’ve been called to join the king at her place tomorrow! <sup>13</sup> But all this loses its meaning every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the King’s Gate.”

<sup>14</sup> So his wife Zeresh and all his friends told him: “Have people prepare a pointed pole seventy-five feet high. In the morning, tell the king to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then you can go with the king to the feast in a happy mood.” Haman liked the idea and had the pole prepared.

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“All the pieces falling into place”

HYMN

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 133

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

(Prayer: unison)

O God,

we recognize that we have been blessed with great abundance.

In offering these gifts,

may we be strengthened to proclaim

your faithfulness and your salvation this day and always.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

God be with you till we Meet Again 672 v 2

God be with you till we meet again; neath his wings securely hide you,  
Daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.