

Worship Notes for April 19, 2020
Orrville Trinity UMC

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Since we're unable to gather in-person again this weekend, here are some resources to make it easier for you to worship at home with your family or a small group of people. Please be sure to take all the special distancing precautions! Blessings in our RISEN Christ! Pastor David

Opening Prayer

Loving God, you're the ground of our being and the river of life; you steady our roots and draw them to seek the living waters. You're like the sunlight enticing us taller and like the breeze rustling our leaves. You're with us through hard seasons of summer heat, and in the nights when winter's frost ice the landscape your love warms and sustains us. You're everything to us. O let our gratitude be great, let our praise be plentiful, let our worship be wonder-full! Through Christ Jesus your ever-living Son. Amen!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Psalm 1 (Common English Bible, CEB)

The truly happy person

*doesn't follow wicked advice,
doesn't stand on the road of sinners,
and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.*

²*Instead of doing those things,
these persons love the LORD's Instruction,
and they recite God's Instruction day and night!*

³*They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,
which bears fruit at just the right time
and whose leaves don't fade.*

Whatever they do succeeds.

⁴*That's not true for the wicked!
They are like dust that the wind blows away.*

⁵*And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice—
neither will sinners
in the assembly of the righteous.*

⁶*The LORD is intimately acquainted
with the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is destroyed.*

Psalm 2 (Common English Bible, CEB)

Why do the nations rant?

Why do the peoples rave uselessly?

² *The earth's rulers take their stand;
the leaders scheme together
against the LORD and
against his anointed one.*

³ *"Come!" they say.
"We will tear off their ropes
and throw off their chains!"*

⁴ *The one who rules in heaven laughs;
my Lord makes fun of them.*

⁵ *But then God speaks to them angrily;
then he terrifies them with his fury:*

⁶ *"I hereby appoint my king on Zion,
my holy mountain!"*

⁷ *I will announce the LORD's decision:
He said to me, "You are my son,
today I have become your father.*

⁸ *Just ask me,
and I will make the nations your possession;
the far corners of the earth will be your property.*

⁹ *You will smash them with an iron rod;
you will shatter them like a pottery jar."*

¹⁰ *So kings, wise up!
Be warned, you rulers of the earth!*

¹¹ *Serve the LORD reverently—
trembling, ¹² kiss his feet^[a]
or else he will become angry,
and your way will be destroyed
because his anger ignites in an instant.*

But all who take refuge in the LORD are truly happy!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, during your time on earth, you healed the sick and comforted the afflicted. We pray for your help now during this time of pandemic. Guide the minds and hearts of medical personnel, researchers, and government leaders to take the necessary steps to answer the challenges of this moment. Bring swift recovery to those who are ill, and give comfort to those who have lost loved ones. Most of all, remind us of the hope and promise of eternal life where there will be no harm that can come to us.

Let us pray as Jesus taught: Our Father...

QUESTIONS TO PONDER (Notes adapted from Brian D. Russell's "The Psalms – Book 1")

- Note how Psalm 1 begins and how Psalm 2 ends. What's the connection?
- What does the word "happy" mean to you?
- What might the Psalmist have had in mind when he used the term "happy"?
- "Happiness" is another way to say "blessed by God"

Psalm 1

- Psalm 1:1-2 – Scripture serves as our authoritative map for living as God's people in the world.
 - What role does Scripture play in your life?
 - How does Psalm 1 invite us to become students of God's Word?
- Psalm 1:3-4 – Success is the faithful embrace of God's will in the present moment.
 - What does it mean to be happy or blessed, according to Psalm 1?
 - How does Psalm 1 challenge us to rethink our understanding of success?
- Psalm 1:5-6 – Scripture teaches us to delight and trust in the Lord who knows and watches over us.
 - What is the ultimate grounding for our security and success in the world?

Psalm 2

- Psalm 2:1-9 – True security in the present is found in confidently trusting that the future is secure in God's kingdom.
 - What role does God's Son serve in God's kingdom?
 - How does the Son secure the future of God's people?
- Psalm 2:10-12 – The mission of God's people involves extending to all nations God's invitation of true happiness and security.
 - What role do we play in God's mission today? Reflect on how Psalms 1 and 2 offer complementary portraits of security and the blessed life.