



Worship — April 26

Call to Worship

¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. ² Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³ Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.
— Psalm 100:1-5 (NIV)

Praise

Listen (or sing along): click the video link on the Fellowship website for *The Lord Our God*

Read God's Word Together

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.
— 1 Romans 8:18-25 (NIV)

Children's Message

Click the video link on the Fellowship website for *Children's Message*

Pray Together

Lord of creation, in this springtime season we come to this place this day to praise you. Your hands, O God, have fashioned whole worlds of wonder. Today we mark that divine craftsmanship in the budding of the daffodil. We see colorful crocuses dotting lawns and gardens and see in this spectacle your very fingerprints. So often when we touch things, we leave behind smudgy residues of our sinfulness. But when you touch the creation, O Father, you leave behind bright traces of glory. There is right now so much that is wrong with this world, so much that causes us anxiety, fear, and deep sadness. Yet the springtime renewal of life reminds us that in your hands there is so much that is right. Help us to see in this spring not simply a natural cycle that repeats itself each year, but instead help us to see deeper down into the dear promise of the gospel itself. Help us to find hope in a hopeless age, peace in a time of war, joy in a world of sorrow, cause to sing in an era of shouting, of confusion, and of chaos. Receive our thanks for all that is right, good, proper, and radiant with hope. We pray today also that you will comfort those whose lives have become what seems to be a series of setbacks and increasing limitations. Remind us that nothing can separate us from your love that is in Christ Jesus. Remind us of your abiding love and grace so that we may always glorify you in all we do. Amen.

Message

Click the video link on the Fellowship website for *Jubilee*

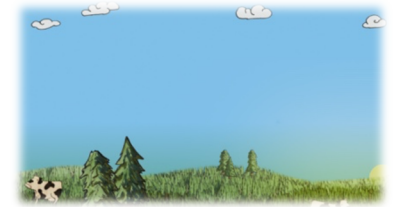
Praise

Listen (or sing along): click the video link on the Fellowship website for *Restore My Soul*



Jubilee

Leviticus 25



Sabbath as a pattern

TODAY: God originally established the sabbath as a pattern of rest and restoration for his creation; yet we struggle to see today why it is good for our world to rest

1 The LORD said to Moses at Mount Sinai, 2 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. 3 For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. 4 But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. 5 Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. 6 Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, 7 as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten. 8 “ ‘Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. 9 Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. 10 Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. 11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. 12 For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields. —Leviticus 25:1–23 (NIV)

Using this time as sabbath