

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

A FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE FOR A SNOWY MORNING



Pray:

Pray that God would open you (and your family's) eyes to His Word and His character. Also, pray that God would bless our fellow saints who we are unable to gather with this morning.

Read: Psalm 24:1-6

[1] The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, [2] for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. [3] Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? [4] He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. [5] He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. [6] Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Think:

On mornings like this, when we are granted an excuse to stay at home on a Sunday, there is a temptation to delay our worship until next week. I will quickly admit that there is no substitute for the gathering of believers. Gathering is VITAL. But if we believe what Psalm 24 teaches, your living room (or whatever room you're in) is to be a place of worship. The entire globe is held in the hands of its creator, and there is nothing that happens outside of His view. Psalm 24 teaches us that there isn't a flake of snow, a bead of sleet, or a drop of freezing rain that isn't God's. It's all His. If Psalm 24 is true (and it is), then God is a very big God. This very big God deserves to be worshiped in all the earth, including your home.

But who is it that can "ascend to the hill of the Lord"? Who is able to worship Him as He deserves? Who is able to experience the joy of His presence? The Psalm tells us that only those who have clean hands and a pure heart. Clean hands. Pure hearts. If I were to ask you to describe yourself, would those words fit? The truth is that only those who have repented and believed in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, completely giving themselves to follow Him, only those people have clean hands and pure hearts.

If this describes you, praise God. But what is left to do? The Psalm tells us to ascend to Him, to stand in His holy place. The God who brings such beautiful and powerful weather, the God who holds the entire earth in His hands, this God has granted you access to Him. How wild is that? "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need," says Hebrews 4. This morning, draw near to the ruler of the world, and do it specifically in prayer.

Listen:

Listen (and if you're so bold, sing along to) the hymn "This is My Father's World." Search "This Is My Father's World by the Norton Hall Band" for a great version.

Lyrics provided below:

*This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas
His hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.*

*This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!*

Pray:

As individuals, take your prayers to the God who holds the world. Seek Him for intimacy and relationship, seek Him for confession and worship, and seek Him through asking Him to move on your behalf.

Love:

Today, though we are separated, pray for a way to love one another. Make phone calls, send texts, serve your families. Remember, the God who holds the earth also holds your home, so make your home a house of worship.