

## Reclaiming Sabbath

The Ten Commandments, among other things, prescribe the idea of taking one day to cease from our daily routines for a time of rest and reflection. This concept, biblical law declares, is deeply rooted in the action of God, who created the world in six days and then rested on the seventh. We are given seven days—one week by our reckoning—and there are six days to engage in the activities that provide the necessities of life and one day to stop and reflect.

Jesus declared: “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath” (Mark 2:27-28). I take this to mean that there is no universal sabbath rule book to which I must comply. Rather, there is gifted to me one day to use in a manner that causes me to cease the busyness that defines me the other six days, and thus leads to rest and rejuvenation, whether that is physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally.

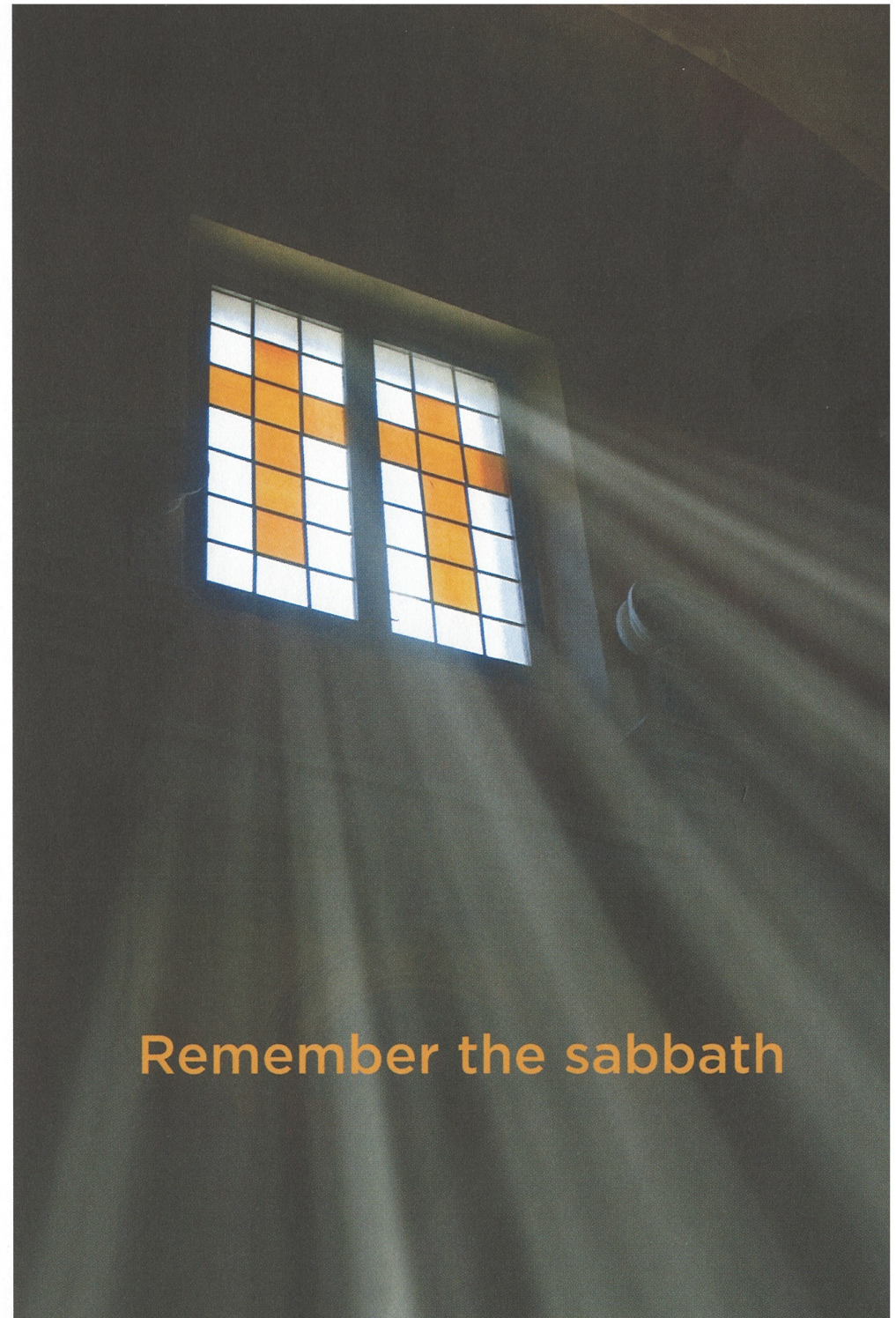
Human nature tends to reduce this gifted day to a series of legislated dos and don’ts and arguments over which day is the right one. Or, on the other hand, the sabbath becomes a free-for-all day used to meet our desires with little regard for its original intent. As cultures in which we live gradually rolled back laws governing what activities could be done on the sabbath, the principle of sabbath has become diluted. It’s hardly recognizable as a special day.

Jesus set his followers free from rigid sabbatarian rules—which is good. Our world has removed any sense of holiness from the sabbath—which is not so good. Might we be a people wise enough to follow the principle of sabbath, avoiding the heavy yoke of legalism while maintaining the intended purpose of the day.

—Galen Hackman  
Akron, Pennsylvania

**Text for today:** “Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it” (Exodus 20:8-11, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Exodus 20:1-17 (8); Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.

03-07-21, Third Sunday in Lent. Printed in the USA  
Worship resource © 2021 Brethren Press



# Remember the sabbath



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:00 AM**

Worship March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "Looking Toward the Cross" (Smith)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Glenn Young, Worship Leader

One: How does God speak? Not with a voice like mere mortals,  
yet God speaks in many ways: In the bountiful creation  
around us: "The midnight skies tell of God's glory, the  
midday sun displays holy handiwork.

**All: Each new day speaks God's language, and night after night  
knows more than it can tell."**

One: Yet it is the cross of Jesus where God speaks most  
profoundly: "The talk of the cross sounds absurd to those  
who think they are sophisticated, but for us who are being  
saved, it is the power of God."

**All: Amen! Let the way we speak and the way we think be  
acceptable in your sight, O God, our strength and  
our redeemer.**

**\*HYMN #321** "Lift high the cross"  
[Refrain]

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

[Verse 1]

*O Lord, once lifted on the tree of pain, draw all the world to seek you once again.*  
[Refrain]

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

[Verse 2]

*From north and south, east and west,  
we raise in growing unison our song of praise.*

[Refrain]

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

[Verse 3]

*Let eve'ry race and ev'ry language tell of him  
who saves our lives from heath and hell.*

[Refrain]

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

[Verse 4]

*Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease  
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.*

[Refrain]

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

One: Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.  
You are greater than we can understand;

**All: open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths you  
have shown to us in Jesus.**

One: You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;

**All: help us to give ourselves to you in worship so that we learn  
what you want us to be.**

One: You are wiser than we can know;

**All: still our minds as we worship you so that we can understand  
the things you are saying to us.**

One: Loving God, in Jesus you chose to come to the world in  
humility. You chose the path the world saw as foolish.  
You used what the world considered weak.

**All: We worship and adore you. Amen.**

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

The commandments invite us to a sabbath time in which we give  
ourselves completely to the worship of God. The gifts we bring are  
important, but even more, we are invited to commit ourselves to God's  
foolishness, to the way of love. May it be our passion to extend love to all  
of earth's people.

*(continued)*

If you did not place your offering in the plate on your way in, you can take it to the plate during the offertory or at the end of the service. And, if you are joining us on Facebook Live, we virtually pass the offering plate to you, too. As you listen to the offertory, you could use this moment to prepare your offering to mail into the church, or to drop off at the church, or you can go to the Hagerstowncob.org webpage and use PayPal to give your offering. Praise and thank the Lord that we can participate in his holy mission

**Offertory** "The Old Rugged Cross" (Hustad)

**\*Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray. We bring our offerings, O God, not to buy your favor, but to express our gratitude, not to support an institution, but to further our mission. We support the church in its efforts to challenge the false wisdom that pervades our culture. We seek to make this community of faith a center of values that are consistent with your will. May we be zealous in your service, willing to sacrifice for love's sake, and eager to embrace your word in our everyday living. Amen.

### **SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES**

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.*

*Please do not share any personal information you do not want public.*

*The usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "The Weight of the Cross" (Machen)  
Elaine Smith

### **SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to

those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

**MESSAGE** "A Sign with Meaning"  
Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #259** "When I survey the wondrous cross"  
[Verse 1]

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

[Verse 2]

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.*

[Verse 3]

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

[Verse 4]

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

### **\*BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated. Please continue  
in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

**\*POSTLUDE** "Lift High the Cross" (Jordan)

~~~~~

*\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.*

~~~~~

*Call to Worship - written by Bruce Prewer*