

Grounded and Growing—Bearing Fruit Week 7

Gentleness

Material from *Reformed Worship* is meant to be adapted by worshiping communities to fit their particular context. This is an example of how one church adapted “Grounded and Growing—Bearing Fruit Week 7: Gentleness.” We are grateful to Covenant Christian Reformed Church of Cutlerville, MI and [Rebecca Snippe](#) for sharing this resource ([video recording](#)).

***Call to Worship**

As we gather this morning, perhaps from a busy and harried week, Jesus extends us this invitation:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

—Matthew 11:28–30 ^{NIV} Laura De Jong © 2026 [ReformedWorship.org](#) CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.

***Song**

[“Come Away from Rush and Hurry”](#) Dawn

***God's Greeting**

***Mutual Greeting**

***Song**

[“Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King”](#) Robinson and Miller

Call to Confession

When God extends to us these invitations—to rest, to come to him, to lay our burdens down—do we listen? All too often we run about, busy and frantic, unwilling to let go of control, certain that if we open our clenched fists, everything will fall apart. We are prone to wander indeed.

But God's invitation remains the same, steady, always there amidst our busyness: *Come to me. I will give you rest.*

Let us turn to God and confess our lack of trust, but also our need for the steady presence of God.

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Prayer of Confession

Shepherding God,
we hear your invitations to rest
and it's hard not to scoff.
Slowing down seems so impossible.
There are too many demands on our time
and too many problems for us to solve.
If we put our feet up, this life we've built for ourselves will crumble.
But we're tired, God,
and we know we can't love our best when we're so busy.
We've yelled at our spouses and snapped at our kids.
We've spoken poorly of our colleagues to deflect attention
from our own failing job performance.
We haven't been gentle, God, with ourselves and with each other.
Help us trust that you are near, that you hold all things in your hands,
that we can rest in you. Amen.

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Assurance of Pardon & Response of Praise

Hear these comforting words:
Nothing in all of creation can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
By his love we are forgiven, and in his love we can rest.
People of God, be at peace.
God has made you holy and whole.
His grace is enough for you.

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****Song***

["One Thing Remains"](#) Johnson et al.

Offering

Song during offering

["From the Inside Out"](#) Houston

Time for Prayer

Bible Reading

Psalm 23, Philippians 4:4–9

Sermon

"Don't Worry, Be Gentle"

Prayer****Song***

["Be Thou My Vision"](#) Hull, trans. Byrne

Communion***Songs during Communion***

["Thank You, Jesus, for the Blood"](#) McCleery et al.

["What He's Done"](#) Golden et al.

****God's Blessing*******Song***

["Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"](#) Ken

*If you are able please stand in body or spirit.