

ELEMENT OF WORSHIP:

Prelude

We rest our hearts in God's presence as we prepare for worship.

DEFINITION

The prelude is the musical beginning of the service. It is a time to be still and to prepare our hearts and minds to meet with God in worship.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)

DEVOTIONAL

Have you ever experienced the 'swirls'? That feeling when life feels like a bit too much, your thoughts are all tangled together, and your emotions are an indiscernible cloud? It's in the midst of this that approaching God to worship seems like a wildly difficult endeavor. And yet, it's exactly

here that God extends his invitation to us. In the thick of the swirls, the prelude to a worship service is a welcome gift. It distinguishes the worship service from the rest of your day and week. The prelude marks the shift in our hearts as we come to rest in God's presence. The prelude, at its core, is a boundary marker that gives our hearts and minds the cue they so often need to step away from the swirl of everyday life and to rest in who God is and what he's done for us.

APPLICATION

Preludes don't only have to be for Sundays! Since we believe that we live every day as an act of worship (see Romans 12:1-2), try incorporating a "prelude" into your morning. Take a moment to sit still before the Lord. Choose a song or a short prayer that helps to prepare your heart for meeting with Jesus.

*Dear God,
You are a God of grace. Today, help me to see your grace so
that I may treasure it. Help me to remember your grace so
that I may rest in it. Help me to experience your grace so
that I may share it. Amen.*
