

Church at Home

Fourth Sunday of Lent | March 22, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have suspended our regular Sunday worship service and are encouraging people to worship together in their homes. This resource is intended to be flexible and adaptable for a variety of settings, depending on the gifts and resources available. It is structured after our regular worship service, but you may do what works for your context. Some sections have recommendations for worshipping in families with small children.

Gathering & Greeting

<p style="text-align: center;">Call to Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We come to worship not because we are deserving not because we have been faithful not because we are important.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We come to worship with our hopes and our fears, with our joys and our sorrows with our gifts and our sins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We gather here because God has called us, in the words of our Lord: “Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The same God who calls us to worship greet us with these words:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Grace and peace to you, from God our Father, and the Lord, Jesus Christ.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Amen.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Adapted for families with small children*</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">We come to worship God today, because he has invited us to worship him.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">God welcomes us as we are. He promises us his grace and peace.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Let’s sing to him!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Families may light a candle as they begin Sunday worship as a visual reminder that worship is a special time when we rest in God’s presence in a special way.</i></p>
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Song Suggestions:

Depending on your context and gifts, you may want to sing along with lyric videos on YouTube, have someone lead with piano and guitar, or sing together acapella. Feel free to sing your family’s favourite church songs, or pick a few from these suggestions:

All the Way My Saviour Leads Me
All I Have is Christ
Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me
Nearer, Still Nearer

My Worth is Not in What I Own
The Power of the Cross
What Wondrous Love is This
Lead Me, Guide Me

Confession & Assurance

Call to Confession:

Read I Samuel 16:1-13

Prayer of Confession:

**Merciful God,
we do not always see
the truth of things.**

**We are blinded by our sin,
and cannot see the truth.**

**Forgive us for when we rush to judge
and fail to give the mercy and forgiveness.**

**Help us to see the world
through your eyes.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Read Ephesians 5:8-14

Hear the good news: In Jesus, we are brought from darkness to light. Our sins are forgiven, and we are made new! **Thanks be to God!**

Adapted for families with small children

Read or act out a children's story version of Samuel anointing David (from I Samuel 16)

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, sometimes we don't see people the way that you see them. We are sorry for when we forget to be nice and kind to people. Help us to always see people the way that you see them. Amen.

Families may talk about how oil in the Bible is a sign that we are special to God, just like David was special to God because God chose him to be a king. Use a little bit of cooking oil from your kitchen to put mark each person's forehead. Talk about how in baptism, God adopts us as his children and promises always to be with us.

Hearing the Word

Scripture Reading: John 9:1-41

Song of Preparation: The Lord, My Shepherd, Rules My Life (Psalm 23)

The sermon video will be available on the church website under “sermon series” and on the “Church at Home” webpage.

If families prefer not to watch a sermon video, read the story of Jesus healing the blind man together as a family, either from your preferred translation or from a children’s Bible.

Prayer of Application (written by IMPACT Youth)

Dear Lord, please help us to see clearly what you have in store for us, so we may bring your light to the world. Guide us as we go through our week. Help us to walk in Jesus’ footsteps. Amen.

Responding to God's Word

Song of Response: "Be Thou My Vision"

Prayers of the People

Given the reality that all of us are encouraged to stay at home, reflect together on what you "see" happening in this time. How has your perspective on this changed over the week? This can be a great time for parents to check-in with their kids, and to be honest with their kids about their own struggles and fears. Take a pulse of how each other are doing. What has been joy-filled about this past week? What has been challenging?

Invite everyone to share what they would like to lift up to God, their joys and sorrows, hopes and fears.

Review the "Church Family News" section of the bulletin on the church website.

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

Adapted for families with small children

Memorizing the Lord's Prayer is a great way to equip your children with important worship language.

Try "stick prayers." Use tongue depressors or strips of construction paper to write names of people, groups of people, or parts of the world your children want to pray for (ex: grandparents, neighbours, doctors and nurses, teachers, friends, China, Italy, etc.). Then use the sticks throughout the week for prayer time before bed—pick two or three to pray for each night.

Offering

The deacons are currently reviewing options for giving during this time.

Instead of giving money, take an offering of your time, gifts, and care.

What is one way that you can show love to your next-door neighbours this week?

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord smile upon you, and give you peace.

Amen.

Close by singing the Doxology or an appropriate song.