

## Church at Home

### Fifth Sunday of Lent | March 29, 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;"><b>Call to Worship</b></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;"><b>We come to worship with our hopes and our fears, with our joys and our sorrows with our gifts and our sins.</b></p> <p>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>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;"><b>Amen.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>*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 songs 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 (check the [Church at Home page](#) for a YouTube playlist).*

God Himself is With Us  
In Christ Alone  
Yet Not I But through Christ in Me

Jesus Loves Me  
Wait for the Lord  
I Need Thee Every Hour

## Confession & Assurance

### Call to Confession:

Read Psalm 130

### Prayer of Confession:

**Merciful God,  
we confess that in the world,  
and in our lives,  
we see the stain of sin and death.**

**It is so easy for us to fall into despair,  
to forget your promises,  
to forget your faithfulness.**

**We pray that you would forgive our sins,  
and strengthen us for life,  
in this age,  
and in the age to come.**

**Breathe into our souls  
the new life of your Holy Spirit  
so that we may ever praise you.**

**Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon:

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

Hear the good news: In Jesus, we are dead to sin,  
and alive to God in Christ. Our sins are forgiven,  
and we are made new! **Thanks be to God!**

*\*For families with small children\**

*Read Psalm 130 and talk with your children about  
feeling afraid.*

Prayer:

**Dear Jesus, sometimes we get scared because  
of all the things that are happening in the  
world. Give us comfort and peace. Help us to  
know that you are with us, even when we feel  
afraid. And help us to remember that the life  
you give is stronger than death. Amen.**

*Families may talk about how baptism reminds us  
that Jesus died and was raised from the dead.  
Going "down" into the water reminds us that  
Jesus died, and coming up from the water  
reminds us that Jesus was raised again.*

## Hearing the Word

### Scripture Reading: John 11:1-45

#### Song of Preparation: Breathe on Me, Breath of God

The sermon video will be available on the church website under "Sermons" and on the Church at Home webpage.

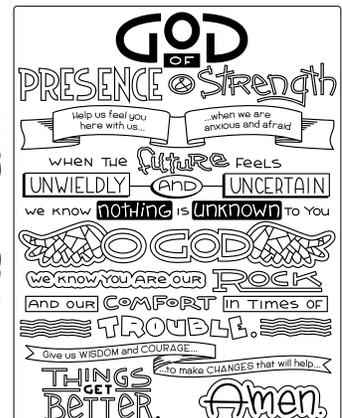
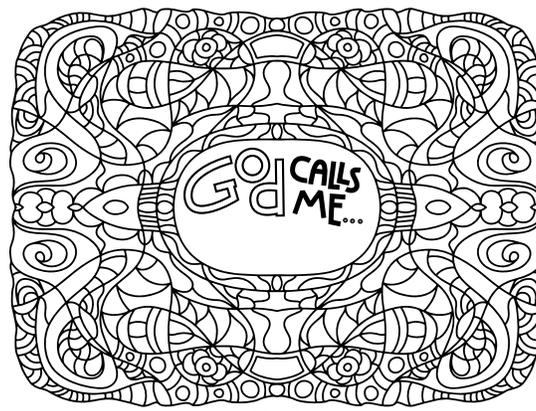
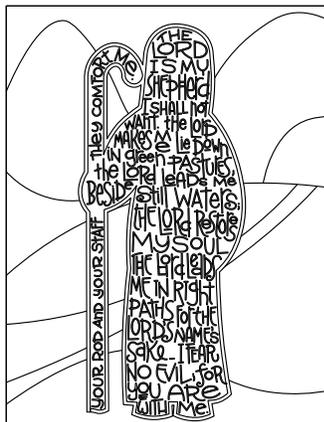
If families prefer not to watch a sermon video, read the story of Jesus raising Lazarus together as a family, either from your preferred translation or from a children's Bible. A sermon manuscript can also be found on the Church at Home webpage if people prefer to read the sermon.

#### Prayer of Application (written by IMPACT Youth)

**Dear Lord, today we listened to your Word, we ask that you help us apply it to our lives and allow you to bring us from the darkness into the light. Show us hope in our despair, so that we may recognize that you are the resurrection and the life. Amen.**

*\*Shameless plug for a great resource\**

Check out Illustrated Ministry. Illustrated Ministry provides beautiful artistic resources for prayer, scripture reading, and devotions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they are providing free weekly resources for families and churches. Subscribe at <https://www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve>.



## Responding to God's Word

**Song of Response:** Living Hope

### 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.

*\*For families with small children\**

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

*Write cards! Ask your children who from church they miss and want to pray for, then help them write prayers for those people in cards. You could mail them in time for Easter!*

### Offering

If you desire to give financially in this time, please check the bulletin for options for giving.

**Today's second offering is for World Renew -**

**Refugee Sunday** and it has gone online! - When we welcome refugees as a church, we welcome them into our family--and God's family. Today, consider supporting the work of World Renew's Refugee Sponsorship program. Your gift communicates Christ's love in many ways, giving hope and building a new life for refugee families. Thank you for joining us. To donate online, you can go to: <https://worldrenew.ca/refugeesunday>



### 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.**