

Church at Home

Palm Sunday | April 5, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have suspended our regular Sunday worship services 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

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| <p>Call to Worship</p> <p>We come to worship not because we are deserving not because we have been faithful not because we are important.</p> <p>We come to worship with our hopes and our fears, with our joys and our sorrows with our gifts and our sins.</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: “Grace and peace to you, from God our Father, and the Lord, Jesus Christ.”</p> <p>Amen.</p> | <p><i>*For families with small children*</i></p> <p>We come to worship God today, because he has invited us to worship him.</p> <p>God welcomes us as we are. He promises us his grace and peace.</p> <p>Let’s sing to him!</p> <p><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).

Forever (Give Thanks to the Lord)
Hosanna Loud Hosanna
God is So Good

Man of Sorrows
What Wondrous Love is This
Hosanna (I See the King of Glory)

Confession & Assurance

Read Philippians 2:1-11

Prayer of Confession:

**Merciful God,
we confess that in our lives,
we do not always follow
the example of Christ,
to humble ourselves,
take up our cross,
and follow you.**

**Forgive us
for when we think we know better,
for when we think the rules don't apply to us,
for when we think we deserve to be exalted.**

**Give us the same mind as Christ Jesus,
who for our sakes,
humbled himself and became obedient,
even unto death.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Read Zechariah 9:9-13

Hear the good news: In Jesus, our King has won the victory over the powers of this world. Our sins are forgiven, and we are made new! **Thanks be to God!**

For families with small children

Read Philippians 2:1-11 and talk with your children about humility and Christlikeness.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, you give us the best example of what it means to put others before ourselves. We are sorry for when we don't think about what other people need. Please forgive us, and help us to be more like you in caring for each other. Amen.

Families may talk about how baptism reminds us that Jesus is King over our lives. In baptism, God makes us princes and princesses in his Kingdom, as co-rulers with King Jesus!

Responding to God's Word

Song of Response: Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

Prayers of the People

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| <p>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?</p> <p>Invite everyone to share what they would like to lift up to God, their joys and sorrows, hopes and fears.</p> <p>Review the “Church Family News” section of the bulletin on the church website.</p> <p>Close with the Lord’s Prayer.</p> | <p><i>*For families with small children*</i></p> <p><i>Memorizing the Lord’s Prayer is a great way to equip your children with important worship language.</i></p> <p><i>Make palm branches out of construction paper and write the names of people who you want to pray for this week. While you make palm branches, you could talk about how the word “Hosanna” means “Save us” in Hebrew, and what it means that Jesus saves us. Keep the palm branch through the week and pray for the people on the leaves every day.</i></p> |
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Offering

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

Today’s second offering is for Benevolence. The Benevolence Fund is to help those who are struggling financially in our congregation and our community. If you are struggling financially during this time, please do not hesitate to contact your deacon for support. If you are not struggling financially during this time, please consider donating to assist those who are.

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.