

## Church at Home

### Third Sunday of Eastertide | April 26, 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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call to Worship</b> <i>(Psalm 28:6-7)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him!</b></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;"><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;">We worship God because we trust in him. He is our strength and our hope.</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 a capella. Feel free to break open the songbook or hymnal and sing your family’s favourites, or pick a few from these suggestions (check the [Church at Home page](#) for a YouTube playlist).*

Come, People of the Risen King  
How Great is Our God  
Because He Lives (Amen)

Be Still and Know that I am God  
I Surrender All  
Your Glory/Nothing But the Blood

## Confession & Assurance

Read Matthew 6:24-34

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Merciful God, you promise to provide everything we need for our physical and spiritual well-being.**

**Yet we confess we often act like it's all up to us and try to secure our health and our salvation by our hard work.**

**Forgive us when we think we deserve better, or that we've earned the blessings you have poured out on us in your grace.**

**Help us to quiet souls in your presence, and rest in your provision.  
Amen.**

The prayer of confession may be followed by a time of silence, if desired.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Read Isaiah 49:8-15.

Hear the good news: In Jesus, we redeemed by the blood of the eternal covenant. Our sins are forgiven, and we are restored to the God who comforts us! **Thanks be to God!**

*\*For families with small children\**

*Read the sermon on the mount (especially the "do not worry" part, Matthew 6:24-34) from a children's Bible and talk with your children about trusting in God.*

Prayer:

**Dear Jesus, I watch the birds out my window and see the flowers bloom in my garden. They don't worry about anything! I know that you love me even more than birds and flowers. Sorry for when I worry and don't trust in you. Help me to remember that you will always care for me and love me, no matter what!  
Amen.**

*Families may talk about how baptism reminds us that God will always care for us. In baptism, God claims us as his children and gives us his name. That's why we don't say a person's last name when they're baptized, because they're baptized into the new family name of "the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!" We are God's children, and he will always take care of us.*

## Hearing the Word

### Scripture Reading: Psalm 131

#### Song of Preparation: Be Still (for the Presence)

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

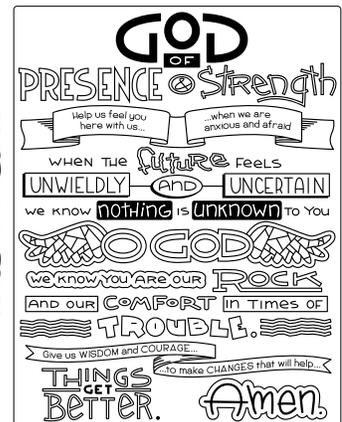
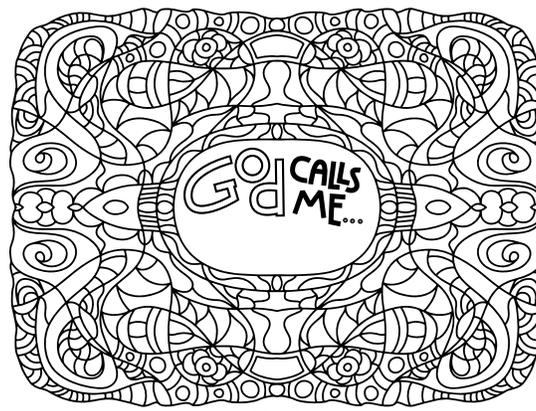
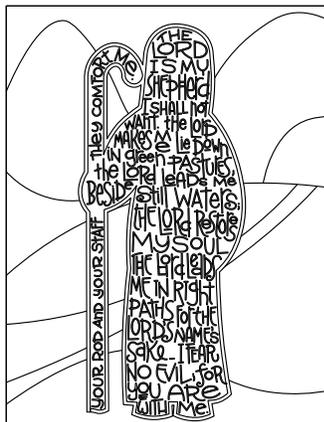
If families prefer not to watch a sermon video, read the passage together as a family, either from your preferred translation or a children’s Bible. A sermon manuscript can also be found on the Church at Home webpage if people prefer to read the sermon.

#### Prayer of Application

**O Lord, our God, you have made us, and we belong to you. You care for us, and we trust in you. You save us, and we find rest in you. Help us to calm and quiet ourselves in these turbulent times, so that we may be content in you. 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:** Yet Not I But through Christ in Me

### Prayers of the People

<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 style="text-align: center;"><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. If you've already memorized the Lord's Prayer, start memorizing a Psalm together.</i></p> <p><i>Try a sung prayer. Families can take turns singing improvised verses of “He’s got the whole world in his hands.” Start by singing the original verse, then take turns singing more verses, replacing “the whole world” with the specific people, countries, or situations you want to pray to God about. ex: “He’s got <u>grandpa and grandma</u> in his hands,” “He’s got <u>nurses and doctors</u> in his hands,” “He’s got <u>[teacher’s name]</u> in his hands,” etc.</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 NewGround.** Formerly Operation Manna, NewGround is a ministry of Diaconal Ministries Canada which partners with deacons and churches to break new missional ground, nurturing Spirit-led ideas that bear everlasting fruit. many churches don’t have the resources or expertise to reach out to their communities so they turn to NewGround! Visit the DMC website to watch the 2020 campaign video. Contribute online at <https://diaconalministries.com/donate-now/>.

### 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.**