

Church at Home

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide | May 10, 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.

This service includes the sacrament of communion. Please take the time before you begin to prepare the elements you will be using to celebrate the sacrament.

Gathering & Greeting

<p style="text-align: center;">Call to Worship <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;">My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him!</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>*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 acapella. 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).

Cornerstone
Behold Our God
Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Hungry
What a Beautiful Name
Living Hope

Confession & Assurance

Read John 14:1-14.

Prayer of Confession:

**Merciful Father,
we confess that you are
all we need.**

**You have shown us the way,
the truth, and the life.**

**You have brought us to yourself,
and we belong to you.**

**Forgive us when we
yearn for other ways, other truths,
other sources of life.
Bring us back to you.**

**Guide us, O Lord,
still our troubled hearts.**

We believe. Help our unbelief.

**Give us confidence in the joy of your salvation,
and prepare us for the dwelling place
you have prepared for us.**

Amen.

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

Assurance of Pardon:

Read I Peter 2:2-10.

Hear the good news: In Jesus, the Rock of our Salvation, we are brought out of darkness and into light. In him we receive mercy, forgiveness, identity, and sustenance from his powerful hand!

Thanks be to God!

For families with small children

Read the story of the Last Supper from a children's Bible or a simplified translation (like the New International Reader's Version) and talk with your children about how Jesus feeds our faith with his grace at the Lord's Supper, the way that we feed our bodies at our regular supper.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, you are our Solid Rock.

We can always count on you.

**Forgive us when we worry
and try to find safety in other things.**

**Help us to always trust in you,
especially when we are worried.**

Amen.

Families may talk about how baptism reminds us that God is always with us. When Jesus was baptized, the sky split open to heaven, and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus. That's what God does in baptism. He rips open everything that separates us from him, and comes to live in our hearts. He promises to be with us always, even to the end of time!

Hearing the Word

Scripture Reading: Psalm 31

Song of Preparation: A Mighty Fortress

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

If households prefer not to watch a sermon video, read the passage together 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.

This week’s sermon video also includes the liturgy for communion.

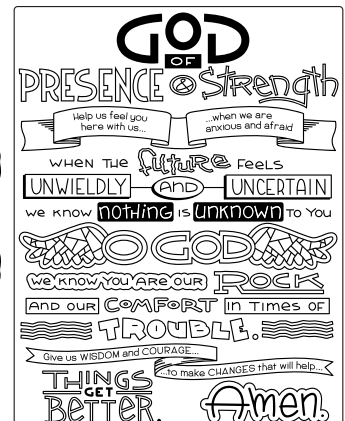
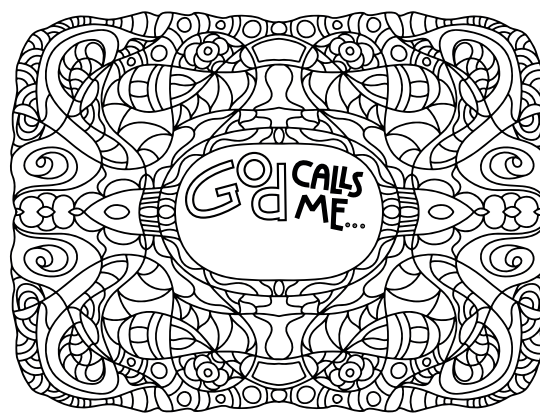
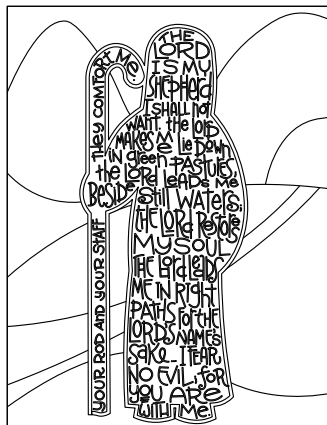
Prayer of Application

Rock of Ages, who changes not, our times are in your hands. Make your face shine on us in the darkness of this hour. Give us food and drink for the journey ahead. Strengthen us by your almighty power, that we may endure unto the end of the age, when we will reign with you in the New Heaven and New Earth. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

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: O Come to the Altar

Prayers of the People:

Check the [Church at Home page](#) for a prayer from one of our elders!

<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>Check the Church at Home page for a prayer from one of our elders.</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. If you’ve already memorized the Lord’s Prayer, start memorizing a Psalm together.</i></p> <p><i>Learn the “five-finger prayer.” Each finger represents a different group of people to hold up in prayer:</i></p> <p><i>the thumb - those closest to us</i> <i>the second finger - those who are far away</i> <i>the third - those who stand tall in leadership</i> <i>the fourth - those who are weak</i> <i>the pinky finger - ourselves</i></p> <p><i>Read more at https://network.crcna.org/prayer/five-finger-prayer</i></p>
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Sunday School Graduation

Today would have been our regular graduation celebration for our Grade 6 children, who will be joining us in the regular worship service from now on. Check out the [Church at Home page](#) for a video tribute to this year’s graduates!

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 World Renew: Maternal and Child Health Sunday: May 10 is Mother’s Day. Our church can embrace this opportunity to observe Mother’s Day in a unique and helpful way by delivering hope to mothers and babies living in places of extreme poverty. Your gifts and offerings for World Renew’s Maternal and Child Health Sunday will support trained health volunteers leading life-saving changes for mothers, babies, and families around the world. To give online and find out more, go to worldrenew.ca/mchsunday.

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.