

Church at Home

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide | May 17, 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>Call to Worship <i>(Psalm 28:6-7)</i></p> <p>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>My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him!</p> <p>The same God who calls us to worship greet us with these words:</p> <p>“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>We worship God because we trust in him. He is our strength and our hope.</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 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).

All Creatures of Our God and King
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
The Stand

What the Lord Has Done in Me
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Come All You People, Praise Our God

Confession & Assurance

Read Acts 17:22-31.

Prayer of Confession:

**Almighty God,
Lord of heaven and earth,
we thank you for making yourself known to us
in your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Forgive us
when we are “extremely religious,”
like the pagans at the Areopagus,
who chased after worldly things
as though they were gods themselves,
confusing the creation with the Creator.**

**Send us your Holy Spirit,
to strengthen us in times of trouble,
that we may know that our suffering
unites us with Christ,
who suffered for our sakes,
to reconcile us to you.**

**In his name we pray,
Amen.**

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

Assurance of Pardon:

Read I Peter 3:13-22.

Hear the good news: In Christ Jesus, our Lord, we are delivered out of the misery of sin and brought into the grace of God's presence. In him we are saved, through baptism, that we may stand before God with a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

For families with small children

Read the story of Noah's Ark from a children's Bible or a simplified translation (like the New International Reader's Version) and talk with your children about how Jesus protects us in times of trial the way the ark protected Noah and his family.

Prayer:

**Dear Jesus, you are the one who saves us
no matter what troubles we face.**

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

**Help us to always trust in you,
especially when the world is scary.**

Amen.

Families may talk about how baptism reminds us that Jesus saves us from sin just like Noah's family was saved from the flood. No matter how hard life gets, we can trust in Jesus to bring us safely to God.

Hearing the Word

Scripture Reading: Psalm 66

Song of Preparation: Ancient Words

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

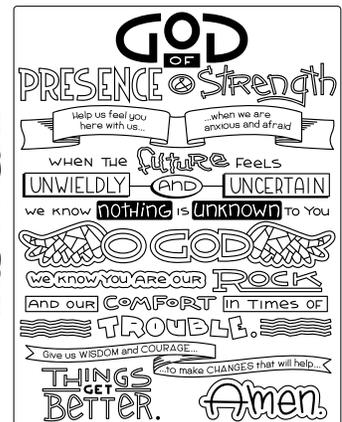
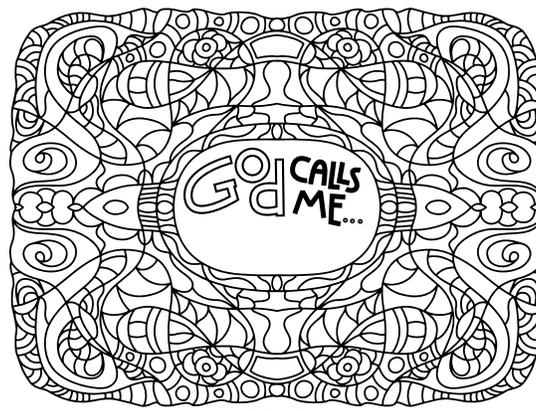
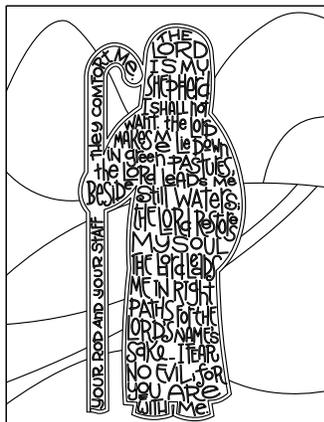
If households prefer not to watch a sermon video, read the passage together from your preferred translation or a children’s Bible. A sermon manuscript can also be found on the [Church at Home page](#) if people prefer to read the sermon.

Prayer of Application

O Lord, our God, we proclaim your goodness and sing your praise, because you alone are worthy of all our praise. Help us to recognize your faithfulness and goodness to us through all our days. Give us the words to tell others about all you have done for us. May our words and our deeds bring you glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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: All Your People Sing

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><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>Do a fill-in-the-blank prayer based on Psalm 66:16 (it works as a chant!)</i></p> <p><i>“Come and listen! I will tell you what the Lord has done for me!</i></p> <p><i>Thank you God for _____”</i></p> <p><i>Take turns going around the room, see how many times you can go around before people run out of things to thank God for!</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 Missionary Support. Our 2020 Missionary Support offering has a target of \$15,000 to support our sponsored missionaries. This is the second of four offerings to achieve our target in 2020: Feb. 23, May 17, Aug. 9, and Nov. 22. As you can imagine, our targeted amount, and for that matter all the financial targets of non-profit organizations are facing challenges because of the close-down of our world. So please take that into consideration as you give. When giving, please mark “Missionary Support” on your weekly offering envelopes, or in whatever other manner you may be giving your offering during this pandemic. Watch for a video about missions on the [Church at Home page](#). Thank you for partnering financially with missions.

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.