

Worship for the Home
Either for yourself or to follow
along with Facebook live
March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent



Preparation for Worship: *Light a candle to remind you of Christ's light.*

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 100)

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness.
Come into God's presence with singing!

**For the Lord is a gracious God,
whose mercy is everlasting;
and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

Opening Prayer *Use this one or your own creation.*

Gracious God, in order that the children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world. As Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in all truth and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn *<http://www.hymnary.org> and Youtube are great resources for music. This morning at church we are singing Amazing Grace or you may select another hymn or song familiar to you.*

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more

in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

In your great mercy, hear us as we silently confess to you our shortcomings..... *silent prayer* Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God does not disappoint us. Our sins are forgiven, our lives are made whole, we are sent forth to serve.

In Jesus Christ, living water breaks through the roof of our hearts, in such abundance that we don't have enough buckets to hold it all. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 John 9:1-41

If you are worshipping with a group, consider having more than one voice read this passage. Different people could serve as narrator, Jesus, the crowd and the Pharisees.

If you don't have a printed copy of the Bible, www.oremus.org has the New Revised Standard Version.

Children's Message

Wondering with the Word *Some of these questions are from Godly Play by Jerome Berryman and are an encouragement to wonder with God's word. While Godly Play is designed for children, it is a good reminder that God's Word is for all of us. In Godly Play, questions are asked after God's story has been presented. Every person gathered has a voice in this wondering and the goal is not a "right" answer, but rather the opportunity to wonder about the scripture. Use any of these questions for your response to God's word. If you are worshipping alone, take time to journal your responses to these wondering questions or simply to ponder them prayerfully.*

- • I wonder what your favorite part of the story is...
- • I wonder what the most important part of this story is...
- • I wonder where you are in this story...
- • I wonder what part of this story could be left out and still have all the story we need...
- • I wonder what this scripture teaches us about the wilderness...

Questions to Ponder on the 1 Samuel passage:

- How is God calling you? (in the past, in the midst of this crisis)
- How does God see you?
- Where do we find God's power and presence? How do we get it? What do

we do with it?

Hymn *David will play Rock of Ages but you may use a favorite hymn*

Prayers of the People *Offer prayers for the needs of the world, paying particular attention to those who are vulnerable in our community, nation, and world.*

Prayer for Wisdom and Peace as the Coronavirus spreads by Jill Duffield, editor of the Presbyterian Outlook :

God of all that is seen and unseen, our anxiety rises as the invisible coronavirus spreads. We worry about the impact of this illness on healthcare workers, older adults, those already physically fragile, the vulnerable among us and people whose livelihoods are tied to the regular movement of people and commerce. We recognize in this moment how inextricably connected we are to one another and we hope that this unmistakable realization will shape all our actions in ways that foster the common good, increase compassion and expand communal care.

As people in positions of leadership in religious communities, educational institutions, hospitals, government and local communities face difficult choices about how to address the complex challenges this virus brings, grant them wisdom and courage. Knowing that we are flawed and that our knowledge is incomplete, make us humble in our judgment, patient with one another, and gracious toward those tasked with the burden of making hard decisions in the days ahead.

Bring healing to the sick, strength to the caregivers, comfort to those who mourn, peace to those in quarantine and mercy to all of your beloved creation. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn *Our final hymn will be O The Father's Love Begotten or you may use a favorite hymn*

Blessing from *Heb. 13:20, 21*

The God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
make you complete in everything good
so that you may do God's will,
working among us that which is pleasing in God's sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory forever and ever!
Alleluia! Amen.

Extinguish the candle *if you lit one at the beginning of worship and allow the smoke to billow as a reminder of Christ's abiding presence.*

Sources and Credits: Liturgy for today's service comes from or are adapted from: the Book of Common Worship and Presbyterian Outlook