

Instructions for Worship at Home

First Church Community,

The following materials are designed to lead you through a worship experience at home – either by yourself or with your family. The worship materials provided are intended to be interactive. Read aloud the prayers, responses and statements. Click the links to play the worship songs (you may sing along or listen and reflect) and the sermon.

A technical note: When you click the links, you may wish to *right click* and select, “Open link in new tab”. This will allow you to go back and forth between the worship guide and YouTube. Otherwise, just remember that you will need to navigate back to the worship guide after you have played a song or sermon.

As you prepare for weekend worship, consider these practices:

- Adopt a weekly day of Sabbath Rest. Set aside work and school responsibilities; take a break from social media; limit use of smartphones and other screens. For an entire day, focus on worship, relationship and recreation. As much as you are able, dedicate a consistent day and time to Sabbath rest and worship.
- Choose a space for private or shared worship. Feel free to sit around a table or in your living room. Take time to figure out what works for you and your family. Adopt a practice that can symbolize the start and end of your worship time, like lighting and extinguishing a candle; pouring water into a bowl and emptying it; ringing a bell or playing a note on an instrument.

As you work through the worship service:

- Feel free to adapt the materials provided. Substitute one of the videos with a familiar song or kids' song; replace a scripted prayer with a spontaneous one; shorten the service by skipping a section; lengthen it by adding some silence or a song.
- Read materials in unison, or assign a reader for different sections.
- Choose a time to worship that works best for you or your family. Contact friends, family members, or other church members, and coordinate worship times with them.

Worship at home is new for all of us. We have prepared these materials as a gift and want them to work well for you. Please let us know if you have any technical difficulties with attachments or video links. We trust that you will experience the Lord's grace and peace as we learn these worship practices together.

In Christ,

Ben and Melody

First CRC worship at home – FAMILY EDITION

March 22, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Before you start, you need:

-device for playing music links and to watch the story on YouTube

-Here is the complete playlist that contains all the music and story.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlp18N0pra4d1ysjOILGikF1Bli1koJAT>

-something to pass around the room when it is each person's turn to pray

-coloring supplies, print out of Children's Folder (print one for each child)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/iynsicyf4mgw2ub/3.22.2020%20Children%27s%20Folder.pdf?dl=0>

The Greeting

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Everyone: **And also with you.**

Songs of Praise – or use any that your family knows

Awesome God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PP9BjKnDaFk>

Father, I Adore You https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFheRJpX_iA

Be Still and Know <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zN0XfOTC8U>

Telling God's Word

Describe a time when you were in an unfamiliar and maybe even scary situation.

Have each person take a turn sharing.

1. How did it feel?
2. How did you find your way again?
3. Did anyone help you?

Watch Pastor Ben tell the story found in Exodus 17:1-7.

<https://youtu.be/Rrl7Ad1xngl>

Reflection – Have an adult read aloud.

This morning's scripture is from the book of Exodus. It tells us about a time when the people of God were lost in the wilderness and in a time of crisis. The wilderness was, and still is, an unfamiliar and sometimes scary place. It was hard to find your way and get the things you needed.

The people of God were especially afraid of not having food or water. They began to panic because they had faced such hard time in Egypt and were afraid of their new situation in the wilderness. But God wanted the Israelites to trust that God knew what they needed and would take care of them.

God told Moses to strike a rock to make water come out of the place where they least expected it. Even though the people of God struggled to trust because they didn't know how to get what they needed. God was still with them.

Right now, as we feel unsure and maybe even a little scared about what is happening, we can rest assured that God loves us and takes care of us, sometimes in ways we don't expect.

Responding to God's Word

1. What makes you feel better when you're scared or not sure what's going to happen?
2. I wonder...

If you like, provide time for your child(ren) to respond to the story by coloring the pages provided or in your own way.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Now is it time to give thanks to God. You can say something you are thankful for, or something about the story or your response today. You may talk to God out loud. Or if you don't want to talk to God out loud, that is all right too. God listens even if we don't speak out loud...let's get ready to pray.

Consider sharing ideas about what and who to pray for.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Everyone: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us pray.

Allow sufficient time for praying. Consider passing an object around the room to indicate when it is each person's turn to pray.

Benediction

Song: Go Now in Peace <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgM9DyopCrE>

The love of God go with you. Go in peace.