

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

March 22, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Lent
Series: Shepherd Me

Complete Playlist Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlp18N0pra4dSFTzi0ONEfpWoGvLmr9HZ>

Prelude: The Lord is My Shepherd – Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0tsuzM6h7M>

This is the piece that the First CRC choir was scheduled to sing on March 15.

Call to Worship (Psalm 100):

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Mutual Greeting:

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Song of Praise: Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqWilp_KLUc

Call to Confession (Philippians 4:4-9):

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Although Christ is among us as our peace,

we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason,
and turn them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song of Assurance: He Will Hold Me Fast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=936BapRFHaQ>

Silence for Reflection on God's Grace

Song of Preparation: Ah Holy Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwNKXeWX3kl>

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53

Sermon: *Like Sheep*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NiK_F1eJhE

Song of Response: Man of Sorrows, What a Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzOkvtXPdGk>

Confessing our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 10

27 Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

28 Q. How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

A. We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

Prayers of the People

Adapted From Feasting on the Word. Kelley, J., 2014. Feasting On The Word Lent Companion. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.)

- One: Saving God,
You are the giver of living water,
The source of deepest compassion,
The foundation of eternal life.
Therefore we pray to you:
Wellspring of mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- One: For all who are thirsty—
Thirsty for a life of meaning,
Thirsty for a word of grace,
Thirsty for a drink of water...
Wellspring of Mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- One: For all who are weary—
Weary from life's long journey,
Weary from quarreling and testing,
Weary from pain or grief,
Weary of Coronavirus,
Weary of news reports and misinformation,
Weary of fear, confusion, loss.
Wellspring of Mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- One: We pray for those especially vulnerable among us—
For the aged, For the sick, For the first responders,
For the medical professionals, For the infant and toddler,
For those with pre-existing conditions, For those who need your presence,
For all those need to hear your words, "do not be afraid",
Wellspring of Mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- One: For all who are broken— Broken by sin and suffering,
Broken by shame and rejection, Broken by acts of violence...
Wellspring of mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- One: Living God, through your Spirit,
Pour your love into our hearts,
Your grace into our lives,
Your healing into our world,
Until the earth is filled with your glory as the waters cover the sea;
Through Jesus Christ we pray.

All: Amen.

God's Blessing: God Go Before You
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wu2aeo-GXxs>

Listen to the song or read the blessing aloud.

God go before you to lead you,
God go behind you to protect you,
God go beneath you to support you,
God go beside you to befriend you.
Do not be afraid.
May the blessing of God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit be upon you.
Do not be afraid.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Amen.

Text: Anonymous, alt., based on the "Breastplate of St. Patrick" Setting: Roy Hopp