

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 29, 2020 - Fifth 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=PLlp18N0pra4fpAJktrKP8fwUUVzmfo7k>

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

-if you can't print the whole folder, draw a simple copy of the Today I Pray sheet (last page in the file)

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=jFheRjPXiA>

Be Still and Know <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zNOXfOTC8U>

Do Not Fear <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTimp4I3u5s>

Telling God's Word

Watch Pastor Ben to hear today's passage – Psalm 23.

<https://youtu.be/-ReCVa9XT1w>

Responding to God's Word

1. What it might be like to lie down in a green pasture? Or to walk along a quiet creek?
2. How do you express what you are feeling?
3. What things help you feel really calm and safe?
4. 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

This week we'll pray using the last page of the Children's Folder packet "Today I Pray For". If you can't print it, just draw a simple version of it on a piece of paper for each person. Name what you are praying for. Draw or write the requests in the bubbles. Consider posting the papers somewhere visible in your eating/living space for this week.

Dear God, thank you for being like a shepherd to us, helping us, and caring for us always. When we feel afraid or alone, remind us that you are always with us. Amen.

Benediction

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

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