

An Outline for In-Home Worship on Sunday, May 17

First Reformed Church of South Holland

Worship Service Element	Explanation
<p style="text-align: center;">Prepare</p> <p><i>Our service this morning begins with a prelude played by Joanne Hoeksema. As you gather together in your homes for worship for yet another Sunday, we understand the difficulty of making it “feel” like church. This morning’s prelude will be accompanied by some images of our church. These images are not to suggest Christ’s Church is a building or that our building is worthy of our worship. Rather, they are intended to remind you of the sacred place where we gather together as the body of Christ. As these familiar images evoke memories of events, smells, sounds, people, feelings, and the special presence of God, spend a few moments thanking God for the gift of His Church, which is such an integral part of our Christian identity.</i></p>	<p><i>Today is the 6th Sunday of Easter. While every Sunday is a mini-Easter that celebrates Christ’s victory over death, these later Sundays in the season of Easter begin to look ahead to the coming of the Holy Spirit. So it is fitting for joy to continue to permeate our worship today.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">God Calls Us To Worship</p> <p><i>At 9:25am on Sunday, please begin with the Prelude & Welcome Video.</i></p>	<p><i>John 4:23 reminds us that our Heavenly Father is seeking people to worship Him, to enter into relationship with Him. This means that God is seeking you, faithfully and actively. What a delightful privilege to be invited by this kind of loving God to worship Him! Pray for the Spirit to open your heart today in joyful response!</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Greeting One Another & The Passing of The Peace</p>	<p><i>This portion of our service reminds us of our call to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). The peace of Christ we seek to spread with our lives we now pass with our words.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">“Let It Rise”</p> <p>Let the glory of the Lord, rise among us. Let the glory of the Lord, rise among us. Let the praises of the King, rise among us, let it rise.</p> <p>Let the songs of the Lord, rise among us. Let the songs of the Lord, rise among us, Let the joy of the King, rise among us, let it rise.</p> <p>O, let it rise, O, let it rise.</p> <p>Let the spirit of the Lord, rise among us. Let the spirit of the Lord, rise among us, Let the freedom of the King, rise among us, let it rise.</p>	<p><i>God’s presence with us in worship does not in any way depend upon us, but relies upon the Holy Spirit. But as the body of Christ assembles for worship, Christ’s presence is made manifest in a unique way. Let us knit our hearts together in prayer that the glory of Lord would be present and arise within our midst.</i></p> <p><i>Today’s second song sings as a</i></p>

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! Sing, O earth, His wonderful love proclaim!
Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory; strength and honor give to His holy name.
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children, in His arms He carries them all day long:
Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness; praise Him! Praise Him ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! For our sins He suffered, and bled and died;
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation, hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus the crucified.
Sound His praises! Jesus Who bore our sorrows; love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong:
Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness; praise Him! Praise Him ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! Heavenly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever; crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet and Priest and King!
Christ is coming! Over the world victorious, power and glory unto the Lord belong:
Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness; praise Him! Praise Him ever in joyful song!

modern-day hymn, recounting God’s power, love, and salvation, and framing them as reasons for us to offer God our praise.

❖ TRY SOMETHING NEW:

If you were to re-write this hymn, what reasons would you give to praise God? Consider taking this hymn, keeping the opening “Praise Him! Praise Him!” section, and re-writing the remaining portions with your own story.

If you are musical and would like to play along with us, chord charts are attached to the Worship Resources email or can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

Prayer of Confession

Please pray this prayer of confession together in your homes.

Eternal God our Father, You are the Creator of heaven and earth,

God, You are the one Who sustains all things,
You hold things together,
You provide for us,
You protect us,
You guide us,
You love us.

And at times it appears that we don’t love You with all of our heart,
with all of our soul, and with all of our mind.

Our actions show that our devotion to You waivers:
that our words are not consistent with the behavior of someone who loves You,
that our behaviors suggest we have forgotten about You,
that we have walked in fear and not faith,
that we have wandered from You instead of worshiping You.

We have elevated our problems instead of rising our voices in praise,
our mouths have been filled with complaints instead of with your words of hope.

Our time of corporate confession is certainly a time for us as individuals to take stock of our lives, to confess our shortcomings to God, and to find God’s ready grace at hand. But it is also a public testimony to God’s goodness and character. We confess because God forgives. We repent because God redeems. Our world has a long memory of our sin, but our God does not!

So we enter into our time of confession eager to acknowledge our sin and claim the forgiveness that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Lord, we have sinned. We have done those things that are not pleasing in Your sight. So we come before you with broken hearts and we ask that You, God, would forgive us.

Let us take a moment to silently confess our sins.

Please participate in a few moments of silent prayer.

Father, You are good to us. Thank You for hearing our prayers, thank You for forgiving us of our sins. Lord, we ask that You will lead us down the path of righteousness for Your name's sake. We ask, Holy Spirit that You will guide us into all truth and empower us to live lives that are pleasing to You. And Father, we remember that You said in Your word in First John 1:9 that if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen, Amen, Amen!

Song of Assurance

[Click here to begin the Song of Assurance Video.](#)

“Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness now the Light of Life has come,
look to Christ Who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man;
in His living, in His suffering never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree;
in the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold;
bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life;
but no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope;
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when He comes.

Scripture Reading

James 1:18-21

Paul calls this the “mystery of the Gospel”: that “Gentiles [that’s many of us!] are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Ephesians 3:6). Join us as we sing together the life, death, and continuing eternal life of Christ in which we participate.

As we traverse through this often dark and difficult world, God’s Word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light

<p>“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.</p> <p>Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”</p>	<p><i>unto our path (Psalm 119:105). We take great joy in the words of love given to us today by God in His word.</i></p> <p><i>Even if you are alone in your home this morning, we encourage you to read these words aloud as a part of our proclaiming the Scriptures together.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sermon</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Love Dares Us To Change: Our Way of Responding to the Word”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastors Jim Oord & Corey Buchanan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Click here to begin the Sermon Video.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Congregational Prayer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please spend a few moments praying for these prompts together in your home.</i></p> <p>-Praise God that He is a God Who is involved. He is Immanuel, God with us. He doesn't stand far off; He intimately cares for all the details of his creation, all the details of our lives, and His desire to make things right.</p> <p>-Praise God that He has chosen us, given us new birth in Christ through the waters of baptism and His Spirit. Even as we see the life and hope of spring unfolding around us, we can taste New Creation goodness and growth in our lives.</p> <p>-Pray for teachers who are trying to find effective ways to reach and help their students. Pray for those who are graduating from eighth grade, high school, college, and other programs. Praise God for the gifts he's given them and pray that God will provide guidance, clarity, and blessing in their future endeavors.</p> <p>-The passage in James calls us to “visit widows and orphans in their affliction.” Pray for those who are hurting, mourning, and feeling alone in the world. Pray for comfort, community, and help.</p> <p>-Pray for those who in homes that aren't safe for them. Pray safety, protection, and support. Pray for an</p>	<p><i>Genesis 2:15 suggests that Adam and Eve were put in the garden as priests, to care for God's world through physical and spiritual service.¹ Interceding on behalf of the world, then, is one part of our spiritual human service.</i></p> <p><i>As we pray over these specific prompts together this morning, our congregational prayer will be unified, despite the distance that presently separates us.</i></p> <p><i>Once again, if you are worshiping together with others this morning, please encourage different members to pray specifically for these different items.</i></p> <p><i>For more items to pray about this</i></p>

¹ Allen P. Ross, *Recalling the Hope of Glory: Biblical Worship from the Garden to the New Creation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2006), 105-108.

<p>end of abuse and violence.</p> <p>-Pray for opportunities in your life and for our church to minister to people whom others overlook, marginalize, and forget. Pray that we can become an accepting, welcoming, and caring community.</p> <p>-Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in your heart and in our church to make us "doers of the Word," using the proclamation of the Word and the encouragement of Christian friends to challenge and change us to be Christlike servants in this world.</p> <p>-Pray for anyone and anything the Spirit puts in your heart at this time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Click here to begin the Lord's Prayer Video.</p>	<p><i>morning, please call our prayer line at (708) 333-8150.</i></p> <p><i>When you have concluded your prayers, please click in the left-hand column below to play the Lord's Prayer video.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Offering of Our Tithes</p> <p>Thank you for your continued generous support of the mission and ministry of First Reformed Church. We are grateful for your partnership in the ministry God is doing through our church, and for your steadfast support during this difficult time.</p> <p>To give to God's ministry through First Reformed Church online, click here. Alternatively, take a few moments to fill out your offering envelope and mail it to the church at 15924 South Park Ave., South Holland, IL 60473. If you would like to drop off your offerings directly to church, there is a secure black mailbox outside the main office door. Envelopes can be placed in the box at any time of the day or night.</p>	<p><i>Romans 12:1 teaches us that we offer our whole selves – not just our financial selves – to God to be used as He sees fit. Spend a few moments in prayer, asking God to show you how you can offer your time, talents, and treasure to His Kingdom work this week.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">"Doxology"</p> <p>Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him, all creatures, here below, praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.</p>	<p><i>Our response of offering ourselves anew to God crescendos in this final hymn of praise!</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Over Our Gifts</p> <p>Father, our passage in James tells us that it's so easy to deceive ourselves, thinking of ourselves as good Christian people when our lives are frequently devoid of care, when we so often serve only ourselves instead of serving You, our neighbors, and our creation. We ask You to work "religion that is pure and undefiled" in us. Use us to encourage, serve, and bless. Make us generous, hospitable, and kind doers of your Word. Start with what we give today. In Jesus' name, amen.</p>	<p><i>How have you used your time, your talents, your treasure in service to God and His Kingdom this week? This prayer asks God to help us have eyes to see ways to serve again the days to come.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Benediction & Charge</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Click here to begin the Benediction Video.</p>	<p><i>As we prepare to turn back to our daily lives, we go with the blessing of God covering us, upholding us, and directing us.</i></p> <p><i>Our service today again concludes with a musical gift from several of our church members. As you listen, please let the blessing of these lyrics take root in your heart and mind.</i></p>