

An Outline for In-Home Worship on Sunday, May 3

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 listen to these favorite, familiar words, meditate on God's goodness to you again this week. Sometimes the best way to find joy in our present circumstance is to look at the future through the lens of God's past faithfulness. Fill your heart with reminders of God's faithfulness and His sovereignty over all things.</i></p>	<p><i>The 50 day-long season of Easter continues this morning as we gather to thank Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for loving us, for saving us, and for sustaining us. As we worship today, we once again pray that God's love would dare us to change and that patterns of new life would continue to take root in our lives.</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>We are not "called" to worship by our staff or by one another, but by God Himself. Accordingly, this morning we hear God call to us in His own words as recorded in the third of the "Hallelujah Psalms" – Psalm 148. We respond to this invitation, singing together with all creation, that "His glory [will be] exalted far above the earth and sky."</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Greeting One Another & The Passing of The Peace</p>	<p><i>Is there any better gift you could give to someone than the blessing of Christ's indwelling peace within and among us? We spread Christ's peace with fervor and joy.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">"God of Creation"</p> <p>God of creation, all-powerful, all-wise, Lord of the universe rich with surprise, Maker, Sustainer, and Ruler of all, we are Your children – You hear when we call.</p> <p>God of redemption, Who wrought our rebirth, called out Your Church from the ends of the earth, still You are Savior – put darkness to flight; overcome sin by salvation's pure light!</p> <p>God of Your people, Your Word still stands fast – do for us now as You've done in the past! Yours is the Kingdom – Your triumph we claim, challenging evil in Jesus' strong name.</p> <p>God of our now, all our trust is in You, Covenant God, ever faithful and true;</p>	<p><i>Our God did not make this world only to sit back and let it run according to its own devices. God, in His faithfulness and sovereignty, remains in complete control over His world and our lives. Thanks be to God!</i></p> <p><i>If you are musical and would like to play along with us, chord charts are attached to the Worship Resources</i></p>

Sovereign Creator, Redeemer and Lord, now and forever Your name be adored!

“Unchanging”

Great is Your faithfulness, great is Your faithfulness; You never change, You never fail, O God.

True are Your promises, true are Your promises; You never change, You never fail, O God.

So we raise up holy hands to praise the Holy One Who was, and is, and is to come.

So we raise up holy hands to praise the Holy One Who was, and is, and is to come.

Wide is Your love and grace, wide is Your love and grace; You never change, You never fail, O God.

So we raise up holy hands to praise the Holy One Who was, and is, and is to come.

So we raise up holy hands to praise the Holy One Who was, and is, and is to come.

You were, You are, You will always be. (2x)

Prayer of Confession

This morning we will sing our confession together.

“Lord, I Need You”

Lord, I come, I confess, bowing here I find my rest.

Without You I fall apart, You're the One that guides my heart.

**Lord, I need You, Oh, I need You; every hour I need You -
my one defense, my righteousness, Oh God, how I need You.**

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more; where grace is found is where You are,
and where You are, Lord, I am free - holiness is Christ in me.

**Lord, I need You, Oh, I need You; every hour I need You -
my one defense, my righteousness, Oh God, how I need You.**

Teach my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way.

And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You: Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

Words of Assurance

Please speak these words of assurance from Micah 7:18-19 together with us in your homes this morning:

“Who is a God like You,
Who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?”

*email or can be downloaded by
clicking [here](#).*

*Recognition of God's greatness and
goodness always creates a counter-
recognition of our own humanity
and sin. Just as we have offered our
praise together with unified voice,
we now offer our confession
together with unified voice,
acknowledging our need for God.*

❖ TRY SOMETHING NEW!

*This morning we will practice the
priesthood of all believers, speaking
together these words assuring us of
our forgiveness.*

<p>You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”</p>	<p><i>No matter how deep or dark our sin, our God delights in showing mercy. It is a wonderful gift for us to confess our guilt, knowing beyond all doubt that it will be more than met by God’s grace.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Scripture Reading <i>James 1:12-18</i></p> <p>“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.</p> <p>When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.</p> <p>Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created.”</p>	<p><i>A central part of the Church’s worship has always been the public reading and interpretation of God’s Word. Having directed our attention towards God and His purposes in our world, we are now prepared to hear God speak to us through His Word.</i></p> <p><i>While reading this in your home may not feel like a very public proclamation, we encourage you to speak God’s word by reading it aloud together.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sermon <i>“Love Dares Us To Change: Our Perspective on God”</i> 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 <i>Please spend a few moments praying for these prompts together in your home. In this way, our congregational prayer will be unified, despite the distance that presently separates us.</i></p> <p>-Praise God for giving us strength in trials and tests. Take a moment to reflect on some difficult times you've faced in the past and thank God for providing a way through. Then pray through some of the current trials you're facing and praise God for not leaving us to our own devices.</p> <p>-Praise God that He doesn't change. We are fickle and shifty; he is faithful and true. No matter how much we lose our way, He'll never abandon us.</p> <p>-Pray for those suffering from COVID-19. Pray for courage, endurance, and healing.</p> <p>-Pray for those who are isolating in homes that aren't safe for them. Pray for safety, protection, and</p>	<p><i>If you have watched the news or called our church prayer line at all this week, you know our world is in desperate need of God’s intervening grace. One of our greatest joys is to know we have access to the One Who controls all things. And one of our greatest responsibilities as Christians is to intercede for the needs of our world.</i></p> <p><i>Once again, if you are worshiping together with others this morning, please encourage different members</i></p>

support. Pray for the end of abuse and violence.

-Pray for Asian-Americans, who have increasingly become the target of racist hate and even violence. The spread of insidious misinformation about the virus has led to panic and fear that blindly targets those of Asian descent. Pray for protection, pray for the spread of the truth. Take some time to grieve over this senseless, foolish, and evil outbreak of sin. Pray for churches to stand up and condemn this hatred.

-Pray for the work of Chicagoland Prison Outreach (Pastor Corey's ministry). Their work has been limited due to this pandemic. Pray for the good news of true freedom to shine in the prisons. Pray for CPO to continue to find creative ways to speak. Pray for the safety and health of the prisoners.

-Pray for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones during this time. State lockdowns make it hard to plan funerals or to gather with family and friends. Pray for a relief of loneliness and comfort in grief. If you know someone who is grieving, pray that the Spirit will use you as an instrument of peace (and make a plan to call, send a card, etc.).

-Pray for those who struggle with mental illness, with depression, with anxiety, with addiction. Pray for good care from medical professionals and understanding friendship from those around them, to enable them to see hope for new life.

-Pray for anyone and anything that the Holy Spirit puts in your heart at this time.

[Click here to begin the Lord's Prayer Video.](#)

to pray specifically for these different items.

For more items to pray about this morning, please call our prayer line at (708) 333-8150.

When you have concluded your prayers, please click in the left-hand column below to play the Lord's Prayer video.

Offering of Our Tithes

Thank you for your continued generous support of the mission and ministry of First Reformed Church.

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, please contact Anthony at anthony@frcsh.org or (920) 698-2253 to set up a time to meet at the church.

When you have concluded the offering of yourself and your gifts, please sing the Doxology together.

"Doxology"

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.

These words echo our opening call to worship from Psalm 148.

Prayer Over Our Gifts

Father, James tells us that You are "the Father of heavenly lights," the source of "every good and perfect gift." As we reflect on our lives, we see so many of Your gifts, so many opportunities for us to say thank You. In gratitude, we offer You these gifts: our time, our talents, our money. Make us reflections of Your own generous character. As You shine Your light into our lives, let us shine Your light into this world. As

James 1 reminded us today that God made us to be "a kind of firstfruits of all He created." We now have the opportunity to give our firstfruits back to God, to be used for the

<p>You pour out Your gifts on us, let us pour out our lives in service. Amen.</p>	<p><i>growth of His mission in our world.</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>This final section of our corporate worship is not about ending, but sending. We leave worship today charged to go out and do God's will, and covered in His blessing to accomplish that task.</i></p> <p><i>Our service today again concludes with a little 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>