

An Outline for In-Home Worship on Sunday, May 10

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 arranged, played, and set to video by John DeVries. As you listen, prepare your heart for worship. Take out your Bible and read through Psalm 46 as you listen, being reminded that God is our sure foundation, our refuge that can never be shaken.</i></p>	<p><i>It seems that these days of quarantine all slip one right into the next. But our liturgical calendar helps us keep track of our time. Today is the 5th Sunday of Easter and we continue to revel in the joy of the empty tomb!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖ TRY SOMETHING NEW!</p> <p><i>If you have children in your home, have them help remind your neighbors of our continuing Easter joy. Consider writing "Jesus is alive!" on your sidewalk in chalk, or create a poster to hang in your window.</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>"Praise the Lord." This opening injunction from Psalm 149 is given without qualification to all who hear it! While we wish we could "sing to the Lord a new song...in the assembly of the saints," we are grateful to know that God is present with us in our worship, even if we are not present with one another.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Greeting One Another & The Passing of The Peace</p>	<p><i>As He appeared to His frightened disciples following His resurrection, Christ's first words to them were, "Peace be with you." It is our profound privilege as brothers and sisters to continue to share these words of peace with one another.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"</p> <p><i>Holy God, we praise Your name, Lord of all, we bow before You; all on earth Your scepter claim, all in heaven above adore You;</i></p>	<p><i>The starting point for our sung worship this morning is the being of God: triune, eternal, infinite, and undivided. This God, and only this</i></p>

infinite Your vast domain, ever-lasting is Your reign.

Hark! The loud celestial hymn angels choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord: holy, holy, holy Lord.

Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, Three we name You;
while in essence only one, undivided God we claim You,
then, adoring, bend the knee, and confess the mystery.

“The Lord Is My Salvation”

The grace of God has reached for me, and pulled me from the raging sea.
And I am safe on this solid ground: the Lord is my salvation.

I will not fear when darkness falls, His strength will help me scale these walls.
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun: the Lord is my salvation.

**Who is like the Lord our God? Strong to save, faithful in love.
My debt is paid and the victory won: the Lord is my salvation.**

My hope is hidden in the Lord, He flowers each promise of His Word.
When winter fades, I know spring will come: the Lord is my salvation.

*Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son
Glory be to God the Spirit; the Lord is our salvation. (2x)*

Prayer of Confession

Please pray this prayer of confession together in your homes.

Father, the book of Colossians compares our sins to a legal document recording our debt. As we think back on our week, we realize just how much ink we would spill adding to that list of sins. We realize just how much paper our personal records would use up. The words we've spoken, the unkind thoughts we've indulged, the actions of hatred, the careless lives we've lived. The way we've used other people, the way we've ignored the needs of those around us, the way we've hurt and harmed this world. The way we've put ourselves first, over you, over others, over this creation. We realize that if you were a judge that kept a legal record of all this, we would be hopelessly guilty. So forgive us this debt. Give us a godly sorrow over sin that leads to repentance, faith, and change. Send your Spirit to transform us.

We take these moments of silence to confess our sins to You and ask for Your forgiveness.

God, is worthy of our adoration and praise, and that of the cherubim and seraphim.

*Our praise deepens as we move from the objective praise of God's being to the subjective praise of our own hearts: the songs of our salvation. As we ponder the ways in which God has shown up and shown out in our lives, we must sincerely and truly ask the question: who [else] is like the Lord our God? Strong to save, faithful in love." The answer is clear and leads us to praise: **No one else** is like our God!*

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](#).

Pastor Chris Schoon likens our time of confession and assurance to the work done at a water treatment facility: the impurities that have accumulated in our hearts, minds, souls, and bodies throughout the week are removed and replaced by God's forgiveness.¹

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

¹ Chris Schoon, "Confession and Assurance," in *Reformed Worship*, <https://www.reformedworship.org/blog/confession-and-assurance>.

Please observe a few moments of silent prayers of confession.

Father, thank You that You introduce us to yourself as the God who is love, the God who seeks out sinners and meets them with abundant grace. Grace greater than all our sin, grace that no pen could ever completely record. Thank You that the book of Colossians tells us that the legal record of our debt was nailed to the cross with Jesus. Thank You that our guiltiness was replaced with your forgiveness and acceptance. Thank You that our names are now recorded in Your book of life with indelible ink. Thank You that our pictures are now permanently placed in Your family album. Thank You for Your love. Amen.

Song of Assurance

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

“The Love of God”

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
it goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;
the guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

**O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure – the saints’ and angels’ song!**

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,
to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

Scripture Reading

James 1:18-21

“He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”

Once again this morning we are met with the staggering truth of the Gospel – that our sins have been freely and forever forgiven! As Pastor Mel DeVries used to say, “There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more, and there is nothing you can do to make God love you any less.” Praise God for his oceanic grace!

❖ **TRY SOMETHING NEW!**

Before you sing this song, take a moment to read and pray through these words. Allow them to saturate your heart, so that your singing of them in a few moments can arise from deep within your soul.

Having heard God’s good words of forgiveness, we now open His Word to find out how, then, we should live as His children, forgiven and free.

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Sermon <i>"Love Dares Us To Change: Our Approach to Justice"</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;">Song of Response</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Facing A Task Unfinished"</p> <p>Facing a task unfinished that drives us to our knees, A need that, undiminished rebukes our slothful ease. We, who rejoice to know Thee renew before Thy throne the solemn pledge we owe Thee to go and make Thee known.</p> <p>Where other lords beside Thee hold their unhindered sway, where forces that defied Thee defy Thee still today, with none to heed their crying for life, and love, and light unnumbered souls are dying and pass into the night.</p> <p>We go to all the world with kingdom hope unfurled. No other name has power to save but Jesus Christ the Lord!</p> <p>We bear the torch that flaming fell from the hands of those Who gave their lives proclaiming that Jesus died and rose. Ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours; fired by the same ambition to Thee we yield our powers.</p> <p>O Father who sustained them, O Spirit who inspired, Savior, whose love constrained them to toil with zeal untired. From cowardice defend us, from lethargy awake! Forth on Thine errands send us to labor for Thy sake.</p>	<p><i>Until the day that Christ returns to this earth, He has left His Church as His ambassadors. Having heard God's challenge to us in the preaching of the Word this morning, we respond together as a body, singing our commitment to continue to serve as active ambassadors for Christ and His Kingdom.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Congregational Prayer</p> <p>LEADER: All who gather here are sons or daughters. PEOPLE: We praise God for the women who gave us life.</p> <p>LEADER: For mothers brave, strong, compassionate, full of wisdom and grace, PEOPLE: We give God thanks and praise.</p> <p>LEADER: For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,</p>	<p><i>Our prayer on this Mothers' Day morning begins with ascriptions of praise and requests on behalf of mothers, grandmothers, god-mothers, not-yet mothers, and spiritual mothers. We thank God for the gifts of these people in our lives.</i></p> <p><i>As we pray over these specific</i></p>

PEOPLE: We pray for peace.

LEADER: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

PEOPLE: We pray for healing.

LEADER: For mothers who have died, that live no longer with us, but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories,

PEOPLE: We pray for those that mourn, and give God thanks for life eternal.

LEADER: For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

PEOPLE: We weep with those with broken hearts.

LEADER: For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,

PEOPLE: We pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.

LEADER: For those who are preparing emptier nests,

PEOPLE: We both celebrate and mourn with you, and hope their wings are as strong as their roots are deep.

LEADER: For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,

PEOPLE: We pray for wisdom and patience.

LEADER: For Grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,

PEOPLE: We pray the caregivers have those who care for them.

LEADER: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for adoptive process to be fulfilled.

PEOPLE: We wait eagerly with you, and offer you our hand to hold in the trial.

LEADER: For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,

PEOPLE: We give God thanks and praise.

LEADER: For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world. For the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life. For women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others. For women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ. For the caregivers, prophets, preachers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers. For Moms, in their wide variety and many forms,

PEOPLE: We give God thanks and praise.

prompts together this morning, our congregational prayer will be unified, despite the distance that presently separates us.

Once again, if you are worshiping together with others this morning, please encourage different members 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.

Please spend a few moments praying for these prompts together in your home.

- Several times in Scripture, God compares His love for us to the love a mother has for her children. Take time to praise Him for His mothering love, His nurturing, caring, protecting, teaching, healing, guarding, and leading love.
- Praise God for families, both genetic families and the spiritual families we form. Especially thank Him for mothers, grandmothers, and those who serve as spiritual mothers and mentors in your life.
- Pray for mothers who are going through hard times: those who have lost a child, those who have given up a child for adoption, those who are going through a difficult time in their relationship with their children. Pray for courage, renewal, and strength.
- Pray for women who long to be mothers, but can not be at this time due to singleness, miscarriage, or infertility. Thoughtless and careless words from others can drive a barb into their hearts. Pray for peace. Pray for our church to become a community of understanding, patience, and care.
- Pray for those who lead on local, state, national, and global levels. Pray for wisdom, compassion, and servants' hearts as they make decisions. Pray for the ability to work together for the good of the people entrusted to them instead of for selfish gain and personal glory.
- Pray for this creation and our call to care for it. Pray for wisdom and boldness so that we can be good caretakers and forces for life, not death, in the world that God has entrusted to us.
- Pray for the ability to be "quick to listen" and "slow to speak." Pray for the Spirit to put anger to death in your life and bring new growth to the fruits of patience and humility.
- Pray for the cause of justice in this world. There is so much poverty, oppression, hunger, and hurt that is caused by the selfishness, greed, and intentional blindness of people in power. In this time of pandemic, especially pray for those who are being denied access to health services due to unjust policies.
- Pray for anyone and anything the Spirit puts in your heart at this time.

[Click here to begin 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

❖ **TRY SOMETHING NEW!**

The giving of our tithes and offerings is just one way we dedicate ourselves anew to the service of God this morning. Spend a few moments in

<p>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.</p>	<p><i>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>As we gather and as we prepare to go, songs of praise are to be always on our lips (cf. Psalm 149:5-6).</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Over Our Gifts</p> <p>Father, our passage in James tells us that Your desire for our world is to make things right. We think we know what's best, we think we know the best way to make things right, we think we know the best use for our time, our talents, our money. Teach us humility. Let us be used by You. We offer You these gifts and we offer ourselves, for You to use as you see fit, for You to use in ways we don't see, for You to use in ways that surprise us. Amen.</p>	<p><i>This prayer reminds us to be open-handed in our giving – not only in terms of generosity, but also in terms of expectations. God will (and does) use our gifts as He knows best in His divine providence.</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 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>