



An Outline for In-Home Worship on Sunday, March 22

First Reformed Church of South Holland

Worship Service Element	Explanation
<p>Prepare</p> <p><i>As a part of your preparation for worship this morning, please get a bowl from your kitchen, fill it with water, and bring it with you into your worship space. Then spend some time in silent prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to tune your heart to sing God's praise.</i></p>	<p><i>Our worship begins best out of a prayerful spirit, so take a few moments to quiet your hearts and center them on our loving Father.</i></p>
<p>God Calls Us To Worship</p> <p><i>At 9:30am on Sunday, read these words from Ephesians 2:14-22 together aloud:</i></p> <p>"For [Christ] himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.</p> <p>Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."</p>	<p><i>The Call to Worship makes clear the reason we worship – because God has created us, redeemed us, and made a way for us to dwell with him forever!</i></p>
<p>Greeting One Another & The Passing of The Peace</p> <p>Click here to begin the Welcome Video.</p>	<p><i>The church's historic greeting ("The Lord be with you") and response ("And also with you") reminds us that our greeting is not simply a social activity, but a spiritual one.</i></p>
<p>"Come, Thou Fount"</p> <p>Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace. Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love!</p> <p>Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come, and I hope by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.</p>	<p><i>Feel free to grab a pot or pan, a tambourine or guitar, and join us as we sing praises to 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.)</i></p>

<p>O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be. Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">"In Christ Alone"</p> <p>In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song; This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My comforter, my all in all—here in the love of Christ I stand.</p> <p>In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied; For every sin on Him was laid—here in the death of Christ I live.</p> <p>There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain; Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; For I am His and He is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.</p> <p>No guilt in life, no fear in death—this is the power of Christ in me; From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand; Till He returns or calls me home—here in the power of Christ I'll stand.</p>	<p><i>In this song we sing the good news of the gospel – that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was sufficient for all of our sins – for yours and mine! As we sing this, what else could we possibly think than to ask, "How, God, can we live our lives to show our gratitude for this gift!?"</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer of Confession</p> <p>Let us pray together these words of confession:</p> <p>Most gracious God, we confess that we have sinned. We have not always done what you desire us to do, and we have regularly done that which you desire us not to do.</p> <p>We hold out our hands, acknowledging that we have often used them to grab instead of to give. For this, we are sorry.</p> <p>We touch our mouths, aware of the fact that they often speak words that hurt rather than heal. For this, we are sorry.</p> <p>We look at our feet, confessing the fact that we often use them to trample on those who are hurting, rather than to bring good news and to proclaim peace.</p>	<p><i>As we recognize God's goodness, we recognize our own sinfulness. Worship, then, rightly includes a time of confession. This confession is not to cause God's forgiveness, but to accept that forgiveness which is already extended to us; it serves to magnify God's grace to us.</i></p> <p> TRY SOMETHING NEW: <i>Please read this prayer of confession together in your household. As each body part is named, participate by performing the gesture (marked in bold).</i></p>

<p>We touch our eyes, and admit that we spend more time using them to consume the media of our culture than to peer into your Word. For this, we are sorry.</p> <p>We touch our stomachs, acknowledging that our consumption always comes at a cost to someone else, and that we rarely acknowledge this. For this, we are sorry.</p> <p>With all these things in mind, we pause for a time of silent confession.</p> <p><i>[Time of silent confession]</i></p> <p>We thank you that you hear us, that you know us, and that you love us. Thank you for Jesus, whose blood is more than enough to cover all our sin. We pray this all in his powerful name, amen.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Words & Song of Assurance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Click here to begin the Assurance Video.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power”</p> <p>The blood that Jesus shed for me, way back on Calvary; the blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power.</p> <p>It reaches to the highest mountain, and it flows to the lowest valley. The blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power.</p> <p>It soothes my doubts and calms my fears, and it dries all my tears; the blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power.</p> <p>It reaches to the highest mountain, and it flows to the lowest valley. The blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power.</p> <p>It reaches to the highest mountain, and it flows to the lowest valley. The blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose, it will never lose, it will never lose its power.</p>	<p><i>The good news of the gospel is that in Christ we are forgiven! The words of assurance ensure that our confession is not about feeling internal shame but about recognizing God’s lavish grace.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Scripture Reading <i>Matthew 27:11-26</i></p> <p>Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”</p> <p>“You have said so,” Jesus replied.</p> <p>When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t</p>	<p><i>The proclamation and exposition of God’s Word is a central part of our Reformed worship service. Please read these words together aloud in your home.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">  TRY SOMETHING NEW: </p>

<p>you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.</p> <p>Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.</p> <p>While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”</p> <p>But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.</p> <p>“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor.</p> <p>“Barabbas,” they answered.</p> <p>“What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked.</p> <p>They all answered, “Crucify him!”</p> <p>“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.</p> <p>But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”</p> <p>When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”</p> <p>All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!”</p> <p>Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.”</p>	<p><i>If you are able, break this passage up between five readers (Narrator, Jesus, Pilate, Pilate’s Wife, and Crowd) and read together.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sermon <i>“Not That Kind of King: Jesus vs. Power”</i> Pastors Jim Oord and 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>-Spend some time praising God for his power, even during this time of uncertainty. Pray for his continued protection and guidance.</p>	<p><i>In this prayer we are reminded that God’s kingdom is so much larger than our own small community. It is right, then, that we are mindful of</i></p>

<p>-Praise God for our church and opportunities to continue worshiping, even when we cannot be together.</p> <p>-Pray for doctors, nurses, and scientists who are studying, caring, and helping during this time. Pray for their safety, health, rest, and wisdom.</p> <p>-Pray for those who are afflicted with the coronavirus. Pray for good care and good courage.</p> <p>-Pray for those in our community, especially seniors and those particularly susceptible to this virus. Pray for protection and strength.</p> <p>-Pray for our congregation to find ways to help and care.</p> <p>-Pray for those who have loved ones in the hospital and nursing homes whom they are unable to visit. Pray for connection and courage.</p> <p>-Pray for children who are home from school, and parents of children who are home from school. Pray for focus, patience, and opportunities to serve one another.</p> <p>-Pray for anyone and anything the Spirit puts on your heart at this time.</p> <p>Click here to begin the Lord's Prayer Video.</p>	<p><i>God's entire world and the people in it, bringing their needs, desires, and hurts along with our own.</i></p> <p><i>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 things to pray about, 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>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.</p>	<p><i>The offering is an opportunity for us to joyfully respond to God's goodness to us. When you have concluded the offering of yourself and your gifts, please sing the Doxology together.</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>Even our offerings are rooted in praise to our eternal God, One in Three.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Over Our Gifts</p> <p>Let us pray:</p> <p>Father we pray for the courage and conviction to offer our whole lives in your service. Make us living sacrifices, renew our minds, and send us out to love and serve. Bless these gifts, amen.</p>	<p><i>In this prayer we ask that God would use not just our gifts, but every fiber of our beings to accomplish his kingdom work.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Benediction & Charge</p> <p>Click here to begin the Benediction Video.</p>	<p><i>The Benediction is not merely a closing, but is a part of our sending as a forgiven, instructed, and blessed people. God re-forms us in worship</i></p>

	<i>and sends us out with a renewed sense of calling in this world. Here we are reminded of our mission to carry forth the gospel, and the blessing of God that covers us as we go.</i>
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