

# An Outline for In-Home Worship on Sunday, April 19

*First Reformed Church of South Holland*

<b>Worship Service Element</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<p><b>Prepare</b></p> <p><i>As you prepare for worship this morning, get a handful of small items (such as popcorn kernels, Monopoly pieces, rice grains, buttons, etc.) spread them out in front of you so that none of them are touching. The book of James opens by addressing the church of Jesus who are "scattered among the nations." Do you feel "scattered" right now? Isolated? Distant? Alone? Think about those feelings. Now take your hand and gather the items together so that they are in a pile, touching each other, united and connected. That's what the Holy Spirit is doing right now as we worship - drawing us together even though we are far apart!</i></p>	<p><i>Worship is a meeting with our heavenly Father. As you prepare for this meeting, think about the joys, doubts, fears, and concerns you carry in with you to worship today. How might you express those things to God today? What do you want to ask Him? Are you prepared to listen for Him to share His side of the conversation with you today?</i></p>
<p><b>God Calls Us To Worship</b></p> <p><i>At 9:30am on Sunday, please begin with the <b>Welcome Video</b>.</i></p>	<p><i>The Call to Worship is one of the most stunning elements of our worship service. God Himself, the one who breathed out the stars, not only concerns Himself with us, but invites us to join Him in a conversation this morning.</i></p>
<p><b>Greeting One Another &amp; The Passing of The Peace</b></p>	<p><i>As our heavenly host, God has greeted us and welcomed us to worship. We now greet those around us.</i></p>
<p><b>"Praise To The Lord, The Almighty"</b></p> <p>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  O my soul, praise Him for He is Thy health and salvation!  All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!</p> <p>Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?</p> <p>Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  Let the Amen sound from His people again: gladly forever adore Him.</p>	<p>❖ <b>TRY SOMETHING NEW:</b>  <i>Before you sing, read these words from the Heidelberg Catechism Q&amp;A #26:</i></p> <p><b>Q: What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth"?</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who out of nothing created heaven and earth</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Living Hope”</b></p> <p>How great the chasm that lay between us, how high the mountain I could not climb.  In desperation, I turned to heaven and spoke Your name into the night.  Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness tore through the shadows of my soul.  The work is finished, the end is written, Jesus Christ, my living hope.</p> <p>Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  The God of ages stepped down from glory to wear my sin and bear my shame.  The cross has spoken, I am forgiven; the King of kings calls me His own.  Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever, Jesus Christ, my living hope.</p> <p><b>Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!</b>  <b>You have broken every chain, there's salvation in Your name - Jesus Christ, my living hope! (2x)</b></p> <p>Then came the morning that sealed the promise: Your buried body began to breathe.  Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion declared, “The grave has no claim on me!”  Then came the morning that sealed the promise: Your buried body began to breathe.  Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion declared, “The grave has no claim on me!”  Jesus, Yours is the victory!</p> <p><b>Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!</b>  <b>You have broken every chain, there's salvation in Your name - Jesus Christ, my living hope! (2x)</b></p>	<p>and everything in them, Who still upholds and rules them by His eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son.</p> <p>I trust God so much that I do not doubt He will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity He sends upon me in this sad world.</p> <p>God is able to do this because He is almighty God, and desires to do this because He is a faithful Father.</p> <p><i>These opening songs reminds us of that great children's prayer truth: God is great, and God is good! Our God is the King of creation and the One who so wondrously reigneth. Yet he is simultaneously our health, our salvation, and the one who satisfies all our desires and sustains us in our need. As we encounter the glory of this truth, our hearts respond by shouting “Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free!”</i></p> <p><i>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 <a href="#">here</a>.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prayer of Confession</b>  <i>Please pray this prayer together in your home.</i></p> <p>Forgiving Father, we come to You this Second Sunday of Easter, acknowledging that You are the God of new life. But we also have to acknowledge just how quickly the Easter cries of "alleluia" have faded in our</p>	<p><i>Admitting that we have done something wrong is an extremely counter-cultural practice. Our world teaches us to deny responsibility, pass off blame, or</i></p>

<p>hearts. We have already returned to the habits and patterns of death that dominated our pre-Easter life. Instead of practicing Resurrection, we confess how many times we've given in and just reverted to the status quo of a sin-stained world. Instead of following Jesus the Curse-Breaker, we confess how many times we've given in and just accepted that the Curse is the way things are. In fact, we've contributed to the Cursedness of our world by practicing hate instead of love, ignorance instead of wisdom, selfishness instead of self-sacrifice, consumption instead of generosity, stockpiling instead of welcoming. You call us to celebration, hospitality, and care. Instead we so easily become stingy, self-absorbed, and bored. We see Your world and we see others as objects to be used. We see ourselves as hopeless, unchangeable, and lost causes. We refuse to see our world, our neighbor, and ourselves through Your eyes.</p> <p>We take these moments of silence to pour out our hearts in repentance, asking for the New Life only You can give.</p> <p><i>Please spend a few moments offering silent prayers of confession.</i></p> <p>Forgive us. Change us. Remake us. Come with your Resurrection Life and make us into instruments of Your peace. May the hope, compassion, forgiveness, and love of Christ become contagious and may we be its carriers in this world.</p>	<p><i>make excuses for our behavior. (Some countries even have laws clarifying that offering an apology does not mean one is accepting legal liability for an incident or accident.)</i></p> <p><i>How amazing is it to know that any liability we have for our sin has been covered by the blood of Jesus!? It is from this divine confidence that we can freely bring our sins and shortcomings to our faithful heavenly Father.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Words &amp; Song of Assurance</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><b>Click here to begin the Assurance Video.</b></a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Beautiful Savior”</b></p> <p>All my days I will sing this song of gladness, give my praise to the Fountain of delights; For in my helplessness You heard my cry, and waves of mercy poured down on my life.</p> <p>I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer; I will sing of the blood that never fails; of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed, of death defeated and life without end.</p> <p><b>Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor, clothed in majesty, Lord of history, You're the Way, the Truth, the Life. Star of the Morning, Glorious in holiness, You're the Risen One, Heaven's Champion, and You reign, You reign over all.</b></p> <p>I long to be where the praise is never-ending; yearn to dwell where the glory never fades – where countless worshippers will share one song, and cries of “worthy” will honor the Lamb!</p>	<p><i>This is the good news of Easter – that in Christ, God has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him. Receive these words with deep joy this morning, and express that joy through jubilant singing!</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scripture Reading</b> <i>James 1:1-8</i></p> <p>“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:</p>	<p><i>How many different voices have spoken into your life this week? Voices of celebrities, news anchors, family members...maybe even your</i></p>

<p>Greetings.</p> <p>Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.”</p>	<p><i>own internal voices of doubt and fear? Have those voices taken priority over The Voice we hear in the Bible?</i></p> <p><i>Ask God to give you ears to hear His Voice as you read this Scripture aloud in your homes together this morning.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sermon</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Love Dares Us To Change: Our Way Of Facing Trials”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastors Jim Oord &amp; Corey Buchanan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Click here to begin the Sermon Video.</a></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Song of Response</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“He Will Hold Me Fast”</b></p> <p>When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; when the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold through life’s fearful path; for my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.</p> <p><b>He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; for my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.</b></p> <p>Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast; precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast. He’ll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last; bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.</p> <p>For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast; ‘till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">❖ <b>TRY SOMETHING NEW:</b></p> <p><i>As you listen to this song this morning, take out a piece of paper and illustrate these words. As you ponder the truths of these lyrics, what images come to mind? What Bible verses?</i></p> <p><i>Alternatively, write the phrase “He will hold me fast” artistically on a sheet of paper and hang it up somewhere in your home where you will see it often this week. If you would like to share your art with us (which we would LOVE), please email a picture of it to <a href="mailto:anthony@frcsh.org">anthony@frcsh.org</a></i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Congregational Prayer</b></p> <p>-Praise God for His perfect wisdom. When we can't make sense of things, He perfectly understands and holds all things together. Ask God for His gift of wisdom in the midst of trials.</p>	<p><i>Interceding for the needs of others in worship is both a responsibility and a joy. As you pray this morning, think widely and deeply of those you</i></p>

<p>Praise God for the gift of physical bodies. Even with our limitations, bruises, and weaknesses, we have so much ability to enjoy His good gifts like food and drink, spring weather, family and friends, good labor done with satisfaction, exercise and play.</p> <p>-Pray for doctors, nurses, scientists, and researchers. Pray for their strength, protection, and wisdom. Pray that the rest of us would listen, respect, and do our part to help.</p> <p>-Pray for people in prison, refugee camps, and detention centers, as this is a particularly frightening and dangerous time for them. Pray for encouragement, hope, protection, and an end to injustice.</p> <p>-Pray for parents who are caring for their children. Especially pray for single parents who are trying to balance responsibilities during this time. Pray for protection, wisdom, strength, and help from the Spirit and from friends.</p> <p>-Pray for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, both due to COVID-19 and other losses during this time. Isolation and lockdown orders make it especially difficult to cope and express grief. Pray for community, comfort, and peace.</p> <p>-Pray for children in the foster care system. This pandemic has put a lot of things on hold and thrown the system into confusion. Pray for loving homes, encouragement, and safety.</p> <p>-Pray for our church and all of God's people to find creative ways to foster Christian community and minister to those in need. Pray for opportunities to love and serve. Pray that the church will emerge on the other side of this pandemic with more passion to follow Jesus and help the hurting.</p> <p>-Pray for anyone and anything that the Spirit puts in your heart at this time.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to begin the Lord's Prayer Video.</a></p>	<p><i>know (or those you do not) who are struggling and who could use your prayers.</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 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><b>Offering of Our Tithes</b></p> <p>To give to God's ministry through First Reformed Church online, <a href="#">click here</a>. 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>In the giving of our tithes and offerings, we give back to God what is already His. Instead of thinking about how much you should give, think about what God have given to us in Christ and consider instead how much you want to give in response to this lavish grace!</i></p> <p><i>When you have concluded the</i></p>

	<i>offering of yourself and your gifts, please sing the Doxology together.</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Doxology”</b></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>	<i>If you have breath in your lungs today, your joyful duty is to use it in praise to your maker (cf. Psalm 150:6).</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prayer Over Our Gifts</b></p> <p>Let us pray:</p> <p>Father, with James we celebrate that You are the "God who gives generously to all." Help us to reflect Your generous character. Where we are lacking in love, in hospitality, in wisdom, in kindness, fill us up. Where we notice a lack in others, in society, in our world, enable us to give generously. Help us to see places and times and people where we are needed. Bless what we give, use it in surprising ways. Open our eyes, open our hearts, and help us to open our lives for the sake of others. Amen.</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 style="text-align: center;"><b>Benediction &amp; Charge</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Click here to begin the Benediction Video.</a></p>	<i>When we do not “go” to church for worship, it is difficult to feel we are “sent” out from church to serve. God has transformed us in worship today in order that we might go back into our world as transformed and transforming agents. Go, therefore, with God’s charge to service and God’s power to accomplish it.</i>