

# An Outline for In-Home Worship on Sunday, May 24

*First Reformed Church of South Holland*

<b>Worship Service Element</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<p><b>Prepare</b></p> <p><i>At 9:25am on Sunday, please begin with the <b>Prelude &amp; Welcome Video.</b></i></p> <p><i>Our service this morning begins with a prelude reminding us that our good God is still in loving control of the world He created. God's arm is not short, and His wisdom is not lacking. As you worship from home once again this week, allow these words from this hymn to saturate your heart and lift your spirit:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget <b>that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.</b> This is my Father's world: Why should my heart be sad? <b>The Lord is King: let the heavens ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!</b></i></p>	<p><i>Jesus is the One who made the deaf to hear and the mute to speak. Today, on this seventh and final Sunday of the Easter Season, we acknowledge that there are many things that block our hearing and speaking of the Gospel.</i></p> <p><i>Spend a few moments in silent prayer, asking God to help you listen attentively this morning amid the clamor of your life.</i></p>
<p><b>God Calls Us To Worship</b></p>	<p><i>Corporate public worship is one of the central acts of the Christian Church. But this central act arises not from our human inclination, but from God's divine invitation. Hear the God of the heavens welcome You to His presence this morning, and respond with joy.</i></p>
<p><b>Greeting One Another &amp; The Passing of The Peace</b></p>	<p><i>Our world is filled with divisions. This moment in our service provides opportunity for us to remember and reflect the reality that the cross has made us equal in the eyes of grace and the waters of baptism have united us as one body.</i></p>
<p><b>"How Great Thou Art"</b></p> <p>O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.</p>	<p><i>Our singing this morning begins with lauding God for the power and magnificence He displayed through the acts of creating our entire cosmos out of nothing. If this alone</i></p>

<p><b>Then sings my soul, my savior God, to Thee: how great Thou art, how great Thou art!</b>  <b>Then sings my soul, my savior God, to Thee: how great Thou art, how great Thou art!</b></p> <p>When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the book and feel the gentle breeze.</p> <p>And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  that on the cross my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“I’ll Not Be Shaken”</b></p> <p>For God alone, I wait in silence; my soul is still before the Lord.  He is my rock and my salvation, my fortress strong; I trust in Him.</p> <p><b>I’ll not be shaken! I’ll not be shaken, for all my hope is in His love.</b>  <b>From God alone comes my salvation; I wait and trust His steadfast love!</b></p> <p>Put not your hope in gain of riches; seek not your rest in empty wealth.  The rich are weak; the poor are mighty, who turn to God alone for help.</p> <p>Pour out your heart to God our refuge and trust in Him to hear you cry.  No other hope will never fail you; no other love will not run dry.</p>	<p><i>were all God ever did, He would still be worthy of our highest praise.</i></p> <p><i>But God did not stop there. Instead, through Christ He chose to redeem His cosmos and will one day re-create it in perfect holiness. How else can we respond to these saving acts than to sing confident songs of thanksgiving and praise?</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 of confession together in your homes.</i></p> <p>Heavenly Father, you are the Creator of all people. You made men and women in Your image. You made us full of honor; we come to confess how we dishonor each other. You made us to serve one another; we come to confess how we exploit others. You made us to respect others; we come to confess how quickly we drag others before the tribunal of our own snap judgments, prejudices, and stereotypes. We fear those different from us; we despise those with different manners from us; we ignore those poorer than us. We act like our gender or race or age or wealth earns us some kind of special treatment. We treasure our privileges, we cherish our comforts, we protect our power, all at the expense of others. In mistreating others, we are blaspheming Your Name, the noble Name of our Creator. Forgive us for when we diminish and demean other image-bearers. Forgive our lack of love. Forgive our petty judgments.</p> <p>We take these moments of silence to confess our sins and ask You to open the eyes of our hearts and expose the favoritisms we cherish.</p> <p><i>Spend a few moments in silent reflection and confession.</i>  Our Father, we thank You that where we divide and exclude, You invite and welcome all to your table. We</p>	<p><i>We just sang the words “pour out your heart to God our refuge and trust in Him to hear you cry.” Our time of corporate confession allows us to do just that – to cry out to our saving God in full confidence that he hears our voices.</i></p> <p><i>Today’s Scripture reading reminds us of our human tendency to look out for ourselves first, and to see others through human – rather than divine – eyes. Spend a few moments confessing this tendency to our heavenly Father.</i></p>

<p>thank You that You sometimes cause discomfort to lead us to change. Make us uncomfortable with the systems and attitudes we've built that ignore others. We turn from our privilege and power and turn toward working for love and justice in this world. We thank You that Your mercy triumphs over our judgment. We thank You that Your mercy is more than a match for our selfishness. We thank You that You cut through our darkness to shine Your light. We thank You that where our sins are many, Your mercy is more. In Jesus' Name, amen.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Song of Assurance</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Click here to begin the Song of Assurance Video.</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“His Mercy Is More”</b></p> <p><b>Praise the Lord, His mercy is more; stronger than darkness, new every morn; our sins, they are many; His mercy is more!</b></p> <p>What love could remember no wrongs we have done? Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum. Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore; our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.</p> <p>What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father, so tender, is calling us home? He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor; our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.</p> <p>What riches of kindness He lavished on us. His blood was the payment; His life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford; our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.</p>	<p><i>Have you ever felt like you have committed one sin too many, (or one particular sin too many times) for God to continue to forgive you? The glorious truth of the Gospel is that God sees us through eternity, and Christ's sacrifice on the cross was offered with full awareness of every shortcoming you have ever had, and ever will have! Praise God that His mercies are new every morning, and claim the truth that “our sins are cast into the sea of God's forgotten memory, no more to haunt accusingly, for Christ has lived and died for me.”<sup>1</sup></i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scripture Reading</b> <i>James 2:1-13</i></p> <p>My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?</p> <p>Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?</p> <p>If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.</p>	<p><i>In I Timothy 4:13, Paul urges Timothy to “devote [himself] to the public reading of Scripture.” It is the Story of Scripture that reminds us Who we came from, Who we are, and how we are to live into the new future to which God has called us.<sup>2</sup> It is, in short, an opportunity for us to hear and heed the voice of our Maker.</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</i></p>

<sup>1</sup> Zac Hicks, *His Be The Victor's Name* (<https://www.zachicks.com/his-be-the-victors-name>), accessed May 18, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Bible Project, *Public Reading of Scripture* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BO1Y9XyWKTW>), accessed May 18, 2020.

<p>But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.</p> <p>Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.</p>	<p><i>together.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sermon</b>  <i>"Love Dares Us To Change: Our Idea of Who Matters"</i>  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>Congregational Prayer</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please spend a few moments praying for these prompts together in your home.</i></p> <p>-From the very beginning, God has introduced Himself as the one who is "slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness." Praise God for His good character. Our passage in James tells us that "mercy triumphs over judgment." Praise God for His mercy shown in your life.</p> <p>-James tells us that we are "heirs of the Kingdom which [God] has promised to those who love Him." God's Kingdom is a curse-breaking Kingdom. Praise God for the curse-breaking work He has done and is doing in this world and the ways He has invited His church to join him in bringing Kingdom blessing on earth as it is in heaven.</p> <p>-Pray for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers. Pray for strength, protection, and energy.</p> <p>-Pray for scientists, researchers, and those at work developing vaccines and treatments. Pray for diligence, wisdom, and success. Pray that we would lean not on our own understanding, but have the prudence to trust the experts God has gifted in these areas.</p> <p>-Pray for those who are suddenly unemployed, underemployed, or financially struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for hope, help, and new opportunities</p> <p>-Pray for those who struggle with mental illness of various kinds. Depression, anxiety, and addictions can all be especially hard to deal with in stressful times like these. Pray for proper medical help, support from friends and family, and hope.</p> <p>-In our passage this morning, James calls out the prejudices that so easily ensnare us. Pray that God's Spirit would be at work to reveal the prejudices in our own hearts. Pray for strength to fight against the</p>	<p><i>When we hear God's Word, we are spurred to action. But before we simply run out to get to work, we desire to more deeply understand God's will for His world (and our role in it). And so we ask God to help shape us to be agents of transformation to His world.</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>prejudices you struggle with and against the prejudices at work in the world around us.</p> <p>-Pray for people who are victimized because of their gender, ethnicity, color, language, country of origin, education, age, class, disability, etc. Pray for justice to be done, pray for healing in our society, pray for an end to hatred and violence.</p> <p>-Pray for anyone and anything the Spirit puts on your heart at this time.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to begin the Lord's Prayer Video.</a></p>	
<p><b>Offering of Our Tithes</b></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, <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. 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>Our offering is not just another financial obligation; rather, it is a joyful response of gratitude to God. In a world that seeks to gain and gather as much as it can, it is a counter-cultural practice to offer "our" possessions back to God and to share our abundance with those in need.</i></p>
<p><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>	<p><i>Even as we give a portion of our gifts back to God, we are moved to praise Him for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us.</i></p>
<p><b>Prayer Over Our Gifts</b></p> <p>God, James tells us that You delight in choosing "those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom." He also warns about how easily wealth can make us stingy and prideful. So whether we are rich or poor, we come to You in humility, giving what we can. We ask that You would make each one of us rich in faith, generous in heart, and eager to serve others. Bless what we give. In Jesus' name, amen.</p>	<p><i>Isn't it amazing to know that God can and does use <b>whatever</b> we offer Him? Praise God for creating us and using us for His glory!</i></p>
<p><b>Benediction &amp; Charge</b></p> <p><a href="#">Click here to begin the Benediction Video.</a></p>	<p><i>Our worship today has placed a difficult challenge in front of us. It is a wonderful gift to know we go with God, and that we can count on Him to sustain and encourage us this week.</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>