

Guide for Home Worship

April 19, 2020

WELCOME

(Please listen to this before you move into the rest of the order of worship).

OPENING PRAYER

(select someone from your group to open your service in prayer)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Romans 5:1-8 (ESV)

LEADER: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE: *Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

LEADER: Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character

PEOPLE: *And character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

LEADER: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

PEOPLE: *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

SONGS AND LITURGY

(sing as a group or sing along to recorded versions)

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

(John Rippon, Joseph Funk, 1787)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled.

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy trouble to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame will not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose.
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Responsive Reading: Adapted from 1 Peter 1

LEADER: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

CONGREGATION: According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

LEADER: In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Though we have not seen him, we love him. Though we do not now see him, we believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of our faith, the salvation of your souls.

HOUSE OF GOD FOREVER

(Jon Foreman)

God is my shepherd,
I won't be wanting, I won't be wanting.
He makes me rest in fields of green,
With quiet streams.
Even though I walk through the valley
Of death and dying,
I will not fear 'cause You are with me,
You are with me.

CHORUS:
Your shepherd's staff, comforts me,
You are my feast in the presence of enemies,
Surely goodness will follow me
Follow me
In the house of God forever.

God is my shepherd,
I won't be wanting, I won't be wanting.
He makes me rest in fields of green,
By quiet streams.
Even while I'm walking through the valley
Of death and dying,
I will not fear 'cause You are with me,
You're always with me.

(CHORUS)

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SHARING

(as a lead into the Prayer Time, as a group share how you are feeling and what you are learning; below are suggested questions)

- What are you learning about life/God lately?
- What do you want to pray for this week?
- What fears are you experiencing with this pandemic?

PRAYER TIME

(have an open time of prayer or appoint one or two to pray)

- Confession of sins
- Praise and thanksgiving to God
- Petitions
- Pray for our health care workers and public officials
- Pray for others whose professions put them at particular risk of the virus

LISTEN TO SERMON

“Pressing on for the Prize of Perseverance”

preached by Pastor Don Willeman

Sermon Outline:

- Introduction
- What perseverance is?
- How perseverance comes to us?
- Where perseverance leads?
- Conclusion

James 1:1-4 & 12 (ESV)

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greetings.

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed (circa 5th Century)*

LEADER: Christian, what do you believe?

CONGREGATION: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell*.
The third day He arose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic** church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*i.e. suffered under the judgment of God for His people

**i.e. “universal”

SHARING TIME

(have everyone share one thing that struck them from the sermon)

SONG

ALL I HAVE IS CHRIST

(Jordan Kauflin)

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way.
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave.
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will.
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still.

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross.
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place.
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace.

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me.
Oh Father, use my ransomed life
In any way You choose.
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You.

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.

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CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

The leader or individual should read this aloud relishing in the confident assertion that Christ has conquered.

Listen to the good word of the Conquering King Jesus:

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelation 22:12-13 ESV)