

Guide for Home Worship

June 14, 2020

Introduction

(please listen to the introduction before proceeding with the rest of the order of worship)

Opening Prayer

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

Call to Worship

Psalms 145:1-13 (ESV)

LEADER: I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

PEOPLE: Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

LEADER: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.

PEOPLE: One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

LEADER: On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

PEOPLE: They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

LEADER: They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

PEOPLE: The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

LEADER: The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

PEOPLE: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!

LEADER: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

ALL: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Songs and Liturgy

(sing as a group and/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.

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.

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 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: *Psalms 63 (ESV)*

LEADER: O God, you are my God;
earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

*PEOPLE: So I have looked upon you
in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.*

LEADER: Because your steadfast love
is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

*PEOPLE: So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.*

LEADER: My soul will be satisfied
as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

*PEOPLE: My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.*

LEADER: But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
they shall be given over to the power of the sword;
they shall be a portion for jackals.

*ALL: But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.*

THERE IS A FOUNTAIN

(William Cowper, 1772)

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains:
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away: Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power,
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved, to sin no more:
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die: And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Special Sharing

(as a lead into the Prayer, take some time to share as a group. Below are some suggested questions)

- If you could ask God to change one thing in your life, what would it be?
- What do you find most difficult about prayer?
- What is most encouraging to you about prayer?

Prayer Time

(Have an open time of prayer or appoint one or two to pray. Specific prayer requests for this week are listed below. If you would prefer, you can also pray the written prayer below.)

- Pray for God's mercy on our community and on us as a church.
- Pray that God would make us more like Christ in thought and deed.
- Pray that God would make his grace known in our community and throughout the world.

A Prayer of Lament

A Prayer for Racial Reconciliation – distributed by Crossway, June 2020

O Lord, how long will your church be divided along racial lines? How long will the lingering effects of animosity, injustice, and pride mark your blessed bride? How long, O Lord, will my white brothers and sisters not understand the pain in those whose experience is different than ours? How long, O Lord, will my minority brothers and sisters struggle with distrust and feel ostracized?

God, grant us the heart to weep with those who weep. Give us empathy and understanding. Create trust where there is pain. Make your church the united bride you want her to be.

These divisions of mistrust and historical bias run deep, O God. Without you, nothing will ever change. In our pain and our weariness, we express our hope that Jesus can change our hearts and unite the church. We believe the gospel is greater than our divisions. And we long for the day when the world will take note of how we love each other. So, help us to meet each other in this prayerful journey. We come to learn to lament. Hear us as we weep together, that we might walk together.

In the name of Jesus, our King. Amen.

Listen to Sermon

“A Faith that Works in Prayer”

preached by Pastor Ryan Bouton

James, 1:2-6, 17; James 5:13-20 (ESV)

James 1

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...

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 5

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism (1563) Lord's Day 10

LEADER: What do you understand by the providence of God?

CONGREGATION: Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which he upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty— all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from his fatherly hand.

LEADER: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

CONGREGATION: We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from his love. All creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

Sharing Time

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

Song

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

HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

(Ada Ruth Habershon, 1906, Matthew Merker)

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.

CHORUS:

He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast,
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.

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.

(CHORUS)

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.

(CHORUS)

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Benediction

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

Hebrews 13:20-21

LEADER: Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

PEOPLE: Amen!