

Guide for Home Worship

February 14, 2021

Opening Prayer

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

Call to Worship

Revelation 7:9-12 (NIV)

LEADER: After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

CONGREGATION: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

LEADER: All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

CONGREGATION: Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!

Songs and Liturgy

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

BE THOU MY VISION

(Traditional Irish hymn, trans. Mary E. Byrne, versified by Eleanor H. Hull)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'ns Sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 29 (NIV)

LEADER: Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones,
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

*CONGREGATION: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His Name;
Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness.*

LEADER: The Voice of the Lord is over the waters;
The God of glory thunders,
The LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

*CONGREGATION: The voice of the LORD is powerful;
The voice of the LORD is majestic.*

LEADER: The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.

*CONGREGATION: The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare.
And all in his temple cry, "Glory!"*

LEADER: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
The LORD is enthroned as King forever.

*CONGREGATION: The LORD gives strength to his people;
The LORD blesses His people with peace.*

IN CHRIST ALONE

(Stuart Townend, Keith Getty)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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Prayer Time

(You may have an open time of prayer or select someone to pray)

- Pray for our nation – that the good news of Jesus Christ would draw people to know God genuinely and personally.
- Pray for those suffering from the ongoing spread of the coronavirus.
- Pray for those experiencing racial injustices; specifically, that God would bring hope, reconciliation, and restoration through the good news of His Son.
- Pray for those in authority at every level in our country, that they would govern wisely and justly.

Listen to Sermon

“John’s Testimony to the Light”

preached by Pastor Ryan Bouton

John 1:19-34 (NASB)

¹⁹ This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ And he confessed and did not deny; and this is what he confessed: “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And so they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you? Tell us, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one calling out in the wilderness, ‘Make the way of the Lord straight,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”

²⁴ And the messengers had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, saying, “I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. ²⁷ It is He who comes after me, of whom I am not worthy even to untie the strap of His sandal.” ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing people.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He in behalf of whom I said, ‘After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.’ ³¹ And I did not recognize Him, but so that He would be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” ³² And John testified, saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. ³³ And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

Confession of Faith

adapted from Revelation 5:6-13

LEADER: And I saw in the middle of the throne a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

CONGREGATION: "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

LEADER: And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

CONGREGATION: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

LEADER: And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them I heard saying,

CONGREGATION: "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever!"

Song of Response

HERE IS LOVE

(William Rees, 1855; William Edwards, 1915; Matt Giles, Vell Rives)

Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving-kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heav'n's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the flood-gates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love like mighty rivers
Poured incessant from above;
Heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Here is love that conquered evil:
Christ, the firstborn from the grave;
Death has failed to be found equal
To the life of Him Who saves.
In the valley of our darkness
Dawned His everlasting light;
Perfect love in glorious radiance
Has repelled death's hellish night.

That same love beyond all measure,
Mocked and slain by hateful men,
Lives and reigns in resurrection
And can never die again.
Here is love for all the ages,
Radiant Sun of Heav'n He stands,
Calling home His Father's children,
Holding forth His wounded hands.

Here is love, vast as the heavens;
Countless as the stars above
Are the souls that He has ransomed,
Precious daughters, treasured sons.
We are called to feast forever
On a love beyond our time;
Glorious Father, Son, and Spirit
Now with man are intertwined.

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Benediction

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

Luke 12:29-32

LEADER: Do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

PEOPLE: Amen!