GUIDE FOR HOME WORSHIP
[March 22, 2020]

We believe worship is an essential part of the Christian life, so though we will not be gathering in person for worship on Sundays, we do want to help you as you participate in worship at home.

Worshipping in this way is new for many of us, so below are **<u>a few tips</u>** for participating:

- **Have a meal together.** (Some groups are even enjoying the meal together by using Zoom/another app). Spend time in prayer together. Sing songs (even if you're off-tune!).

- It may seem awkward at first, but I'd encourage you to **"push through the awkward."** It gets more comfortable with time.

- Families with small children may have trouble going through the entire service and that's okay! They may need to **have a break to get some wiggles out.** You can also use the kids resources posted at: <u>opcmilford.org/live</u>

- **Select someone to act as the leader** for the service/take turns leading different sections below (Call to worship, prayer, benediction). Older children are often more engaged if they have leading/reading roles.

- **Take time to reflect and thank God** for the opportunity to gather and worship in this way.

CALL TO WORSHIP
Read aloud **<u>before clicking play</u>** on the service:

> *Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. (Psalm 143:8)*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we confess that we need this reminder of your unfailing love every morning of our lives. But perhaps especially this morning as we gather to worship you from our homes. Our weeks have been filled with uncertainty and so we long to delight ourselves in the certainty that you love us completely in Christ.

So here is our prayer as we gather to worship you today: We put our trust in you, because only you have the words of life (John 6:68). We want this morning to bring us word of your unfailing love.

And help us to entrust our entire lives to you! Because, as Psalm 73 says: who else in heaven do we have but you, O Lord? Meet us today, as we sing and move and breathe and receive your Word to us. Give us understanding by your Spirit of the ways we should go.

Father, speak *more convincingly* than the limits of our reason, *with more authority* than our fears, and *louder than all other opinions* that have come our way. You haven't promised us

all the answers we want, but **you have promised all the grace that we need.** We are so grateful to be your beloved children. We rest in your love, surrender to your sovereignty, and anticipate your faithfulness. Amen.

Stream the Service

Benediction
Read aloud together:
"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Romans 8:38-39

DISCUSSION GUIDE

(to be used in community with others)

Tips: Talk through these questions over some food and take joy together in the truths and promises you've heard today in God's Word, in song, and as you discuss together.

If you're not sharing a home with others, then gather digitally with those in your LifeGroup, Discipleship, Study Group, or simply other people and enjoy some conversation!

Communion with God
- What is one truth about God that you are clinging to right now from the sermon or from your personal devotional time?
- What is one act of obedience the Holy Spirit is calling you towards this week?
- What is your one prayer request for personal renewal?

Community with God's People
- What is one burden you want to share with us that you need help shouldering?
- What is one burden you are currently shouldering for others that we can assist you with?
- What is one blessing you want to share with us that we can help you celebrate?

Commissioned to God's World
- Who is one neighbor that you are caring for right now?