

GUIDE FOR HOME WORSHIP 03/29

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 **a few tips** for participating:

- **Have a meal together** (Some groups are even enjoying the meal together by using Zoom or 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: opcmilford.org/kidsresources/
- 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 + thank God for the opportunity to gather and worship in this way.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Read aloud before clicking play on the musical worship:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. (Isa. 43:1-2)

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank you so many times over for the way you come to us in your Word. You don't merely give us "verses to claim," but you reveal yourself as a Father to know—a Father who loves and cares for us, so much more than we realize.

Today, in particular, thank you for validating our sufferings and for pledging yourself to us in our hard places and broken stories. There is no name that you call us that is any more precious to us than "Mine." We are honored to be yours and relish everything that belonging to you implies.

Father, you say to us that not if but when we pass through deep waters and rushing rivers, you will be with us. Thank you for being up front about life between the resurrection and return of Jesus. There will be, and there are, difficult seasons and all types of suffering in this life.

Grant us the perspective Peter had. No matter how many years you give us in this world, sufferings in this life are for “a little while” (1 Peter 5:10) in comparison with your plans for our eternal joy. Thank you for your promise to restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us—in, through, and after our suffering. And grant us Paul’s perspective as well—his sense of redemptive math.

The things you have prepared for us in the future do far, far, far outvalue the present sufferings we are called to endure now. Father, **grant us the grace we need** to suffer to your glory, **the strength to trust you** in the hardships and with our heartaches, and **the wisdom and kindness to care** for our fellow sufferers. In Jesus’ tender and triumphant name we pray. Amen.

STREAM THE SERVICE

BENEDICTION

Read aloud together:

“*And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*” (1 Pet. 5:10 ESV)

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?