

Worshipping Online at Home

When we were together in the building chances are you had a routine each week to prepare for worship – pick out an outfit, make a cup of coffee, drive to church and take a seat in your regular row. In these new days of stay-at-home live streamed worship some things will be familiar and stay the same such as your favorite cup of coffee, however don't be afraid to try new things until you find what works best for you. Remember, you are creating a space to worship and experience God. Here are some suggestions for how you can prepare for meaningful online worship at home.

Create Your Space

- Choose a space that works best and try to worship in the same place each week.
- Create a home altar. Decorate a table or area with a cross, pictures, Bible, flowers or a candle. You can even place a bowl of water on your home altar to remember your baptism. Put anything on your altar that helps you to feel worshipful, connected to God and connected to each other.
- Light a candle or two and play some music before worship begins.

Establish a New Routine

- Print off the online worship guide or have it on a device for everyone to follow along.
- Start a household “call to worship” using a bell or other instrument to alert family members that worship is about to begin.
- Light a candle at the start of worship and extinguish it at the end.
- Give yourself or family members a blessing during the time of peace or at the end of worship.
- Remember to move and participate. It may feel a bit awkward at first, but remember we are still worshipping together even though we are apart. Stand, sing along, speak the prayers out loud, and interact with each other.

Especially for Kids

- Set boundaries and expectations for their participation. Tell them ahead of time when they will need to be quiet, when they can move around, when they will need to listen.
- Give kids a job – candle lighter, call to worship, prayer leader during prayers, Bible finder (to look up the readings), or blessing are some possibilities.
- Provide a special basket or box of activities for kids of all ages to use during worship. You could use anything and change them up from week to week. Even a box of Legos could be used to have kids recreate a scene from the Gospel story for the day. Even while kids seem busy doing something else, they are still present and picking up on what is happening during worship.
- Encourage movement and participation. Allow the kids to move around the room. Give them instruments so they can play along during the hymns and songs.

