



GCUMC AT-HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

March 22nd, 2020 / 4th Sunday in Lent

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP:

While we regret we cannot worship together in person this Sunday, we are grateful to be able to worship together in spirit through this At-Home Worship Guide. The service below can be used alone or with others in your household: if there are two or more people present, perhaps you can alternate who leads by having different persons read the regular and italic print and the bold print.

Before you begin, take a moment to prepare the space. You might want to print out a couple of copies of this guide to have handy. You might also want to have your computer or phone(s) present and already navigated to the songs and Pastor Jeremy's sermon reflection for today: for the songs you can follow the links in the email, and for the sermon you can either click the link below or just go to YouTube.com, search for "Guilford College UMC," and click on the message for March 22nd, 2020.

You might also consider having a lighter and a candle present in the space. Whenever you are ready to start, light the candle as a sign of Christ's presence with you through the Holy Spirit. Keep a moment of silence to focus your heart and mind upon the worshipping God.

GATHERING

Opening Prayer

(Offer a brief opening prayer inviting God to bless you and connect you to others in this time of worship)

Opening Song: "Spirit of the Living God" (sing 3 times)

(If you are unfamiliar with the tune, or would like accompaniment, you can click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BagH-zTfnsQ>

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Melt me,
mold me,
fill me,
use me,
Spirit of the living God,

fall afresh on me.

Opening Prayer of Confession

Even in our faithlessness,
God loves us still, and waits in mercy to forgive.
Trusting in God's mercy,
Let us confess our sins before God and one another together:

Holy God,
you promise us a life full of blessing,
but we do not always believe.
You call invite us to hope,
but we fall back into fear.
You urge us to give freely,
but we cling to what we have.
You call us to watch at all times for you,
but we grow lazy and self-absorbed.
Forgive us.
Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts,
and keep us alert to the wonders you work in the world every day.
For the sake of Jesus we pray. Amen.

(Please keep a time for silent prayers of confession. Afterwards, you may read aloud:)

Hear the good news!
By repentance and faith in Christ we are saved,
our guilty hearts made clean.
God offers to refresh us, revive us, renew us,
and empower us by the Holy Spirit:
Live as those who are forgiven and freed,
giving thanks to God.

Amen!

Offering

Take a moment to remember, offer or share with each other your gratitude for one or two specific blessings that you have experienced recently in your life. When you are finished, sing or say the simple song below:

Gloria Patri ("Glory Be To the Father")

(If you are unfamiliar with the tune or would like some voices to sing with, click here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsLGxWpUeho>*)*

"Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost:

as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end,
Amen, Amen.

SHARING IN THE WORD

Scripture Reading

II Timothy 1:7:

"(F)or God did not give us a spirit of fear,
but rather a spirit of power, and of love, and of self-discipline."

VERSES vs. The Virus: II Timothy 1:7 Sermon Reflection by Pastor Jeremy Troxler

(To see and hear Jeremy's reflection on II Timothy 1:7, and to listen to the song "Peace Like a River" by Mark and Meghan Christy that follows it, along with some important church announcements go to YouTube.com and search for "Guilford College UMC," and then click on the message for March 22nd; or you may click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIsz5foswUQ>)

Response Song: Peace Like a River (with Mark and Meghan Christy)

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
in my soul (2x)

I've got love like an ocean . . .

I've got joy like a fountain . . .

I've got peace, love & joy like Jesus,

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

In response to the Word, ask yourself, or discuss with those around you, some or all of the following questions:

1. In what ways have you sensed a spirit of fear around you during this time? What is one specific fear that you have during this time we are living through, for yourself or others? How might you release this fear to God?
2. When is a time in your life when God gave you the power to overcome one of your fears, however great or small? How did that make you feel?
3. What is one act of love that you (and perhaps your family) can commit to doing in the coming week?

4. What is one thing you struggle to be self-disciplined about? (Consider asking God to help you with this.) What is one discipline you feel led to practice in the coming week?

PRAYERS AND BENEDICTION

Scripture Reading

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.
Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4: 5-7

Prayers of The People / The Lord's Prayer

(If you are alone, take a moment to respond in God to prayer, especially naming some of your hopes and fears for the coming day and week. Then take some time to pray for others, including your brothers and sisters in the church. Among those whom we especially ask your prayers for this week are:

George Meister (admitted to Wesley Long with serious heart infection and high fever)
Scott Allen (biopsy on pancreas on Tuesday)
Nick Lubchenko (diagnosed with a rare blood cancer called P.O.E.M Syndrome - undergoing tests)
Austin and Helen Philips (following the death of their niece Maria Horton)
Danny and Lilia Edwards and Family (following the death of Danny's mother Sue)
Martha Stone (moved into care at Richland Place)
Ronica Bowen (following death of sister-in-law's brother)
Michael Eagle (recovery at home)
Jackie Firebaugh (cancer treatments and recovery from hip surgery)
Wayne Ledbetter (recovering following toe surgery)
Jack Corcoran (father of Mike Corcoran, under Hospice care)
The Family of Suzanne Lund
Su Frady (Sue has been moved into Hospice Care in Matthews due to congestive heart failure- her family has shared that notes from her church family of the "Thinking of You" rather than "Get Well Soon" variety may be helpful to her: Su's address is Su Frady, Royal Park Room 201, 2700 Royal Commons Drive, Matthews, NC 28105)

If you are with others, perhaps take turns sharing prayers requests or praying for the folks above. As part of your time of prayer, perhaps you might also pray for all of those affected by the new coronavirus. If you have a hard time finding words to pray, consider praying the following prayer for the sick:

*"God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm*

*and soothes the frantic heart:
bring hope and courage to all of these as they suffer
and as they wait in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you give healing and life.
Bring hope that you will help and guide them through whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure whatever cannot be avoided,
and increase their faith in you:
for your will is health and wholeness.
You are God, and we need you.”* *-adapted from a New Zealand Prayer Book*

Conclude with the words of the Lord’s prayer.)

**"Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from us evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen."**

Closing Song: "Spirit of the Living God" (sing once)

(If you are unfamiliar with the tune or want voices to sing with, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BagH-zTfnsQ>

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me,
mold me,
fill me,
use me,
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

Blessing

**“May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen”**

**Now that you've "had church," go forward and BE the church:
blow out your candle and live as the light of Christ in the world.*