



Sacred Spaces Outside the Walls of St. Paul's: an Invitation to Worship in Place

We find ourselves in unusual times. Times that would normally invite gathering but require distancing. Times when we thirst for connection, but may actually become disconnected.

This is a guide to help you create space, both physically and spiritually, to worship collectively even while we are apart.



"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." John 15:4 (NRSV)

Getting Ready: Create or Designate an Intentional Space
Even if your space normally has another purpose, this is not a time for multi-tasking while worshipping. If you can, add something to the space that will only be used when you worship (e.g. a lit candle). You'll also need a Bible and something for taking notes, preferably the old fashioned way - paper and pen - but whatever you have, use it.

Designate a time for worship
Be realistic. It needs to be a time you are least likely to be interrupted.

Engage individually or with others.
This can be your personal time of worship; or you can invite others in the house to join you; or connect with others virtually.

And remember this is not about perfection - it's about connection.

Let us worship.

CENTER: Even in a designated space, distraction is possible. Centering allows you to focus on why you are entering the space. Center through focused breathing, or prayer. Let your prayer be an invitation for God's presence to guide you during this worship time; this is not the moment to offer petitions of concern or praises.

MUSIC/SONG: You are invited to play (or sing) a song/hymn of your choice which inspires, uplifts, or comforts you. Music also sets the atmosphere

SCRIPTURE: Read a scripture slowly and intentionally, out loud. (Resources are provided at the end for scripture selection.)

PAUSE: Pause and breathe.

REFLECT: Does anything in the scripture stand out? Is there anything you don't understand? Write down your thoughts and your questions. And if you're gathering with others... discuss your thoughts and questions. Reflection may also include re-reading the scripture in a different translation and reflecting on the differences; or seeing if that helps with understanding

PRAYER: This is the place to offer prayer concerns and prayers of thanksgiving.

CLOSING WITH GRACE: If you are doing this alone, capture how this time has made you feel. If as a group, share how this time has made you feel.

REFLECT: No matter how you have entered your worship space, apply the following:

- What has this moment led me to do?
- What do I hear God inviting me to do?
- What am I willing to commit to doing?
- And who and what do I need to help me do this?

Close with a prayer and by taking time to breathe intentionally, similar to the way you entered the space.

***May the Lord who has created you, meet you in the spaces you inhabit, cover, keep, and fill you that you might fill others.
Amen.***



RESOURCES

The following are a few websites provide access to scripture or Bible translations, or a daily devotion/reading and some prayers. If you know of others feel free to access those as well.

biblegateway.com
upperroom.org
americanbible.org
odb.org
umcdiscipleship.org

You are encouraged to select scriptures that speak to your heart and spirit. If you're looking for a place to start, try the Book of Psalms.



WORSHIP AT HOME WITH ST. PAUL'S UMC

Until we can gather again, visit stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home where Pastor Pat shares Sunday's Gospel reading, prayer, and a sermon message tailored for our current moment.

To share a prayer request, visit stpaulsk.org
Go to our COMMUNITY section and click on PRAYER REQUESTS

At stpaulsk.org, you can also sign up for weekly news email messages, make offerings securely, and find other opportunities for support and engagement.

We will be updating content regularly and sharing news throughout this time of public health crisis.



We pray that through this sharing you will engage in a worshipful, spiritual practice which you can sustain - not just through this crisis, but always.