

Order of Worship for at Home Use

Mother's Day, May 10, 2020

Welcome to worship with Grace@Home!

We pray that you are blessed as you worship, that God will provide you with all hope and mercy as you enter into His Presence.

Christ is RISEN!

He is RISEN INDEED!

Today, as the joyful people of God, we continue to worship our Risen LORD, separate, but together, as God's family. Today is the Fifth Sunday in the Easter season, AND it's Mother's Day.

As we begin you are invited to **prepare your worship space**. You may choose to bring in some fresh flowers from your garden, or remember your mother by bringing something into your worship space that reminds you of her. Maybe drink your coffee out of a family china cup, or put out a special photo. As we worship we praise God for the gift of love and legacy that was given to us by our own mothers and those that stood in for our mothers. We are discussing the fruits of the Spirit, so you might want to arrange whole fresh fruit in a bowl for your time of worship.

Here are two coloring pages for today that you, or your children, may want to complete beforehand.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1u3kNe9BBJX7gPpOBsPPyqMNWk_UaIWMs

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1U_ERmvSLgTYBQOKYJYtKspuJ8xLYT5nV

May You be blessed by God's grace as we worship together.

If you wish to worship via the video click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lpsBCIjwPc>

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Prelude

“To God Be the Glory” arr. L McKechnie
Dr. Jerry Reeves, pianist, Dr. David Dorway, organist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EymMu9yefZM>

Welcome and Call to Worship

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRPFLfHZZ1k>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKbHfstRb-M>

The Spirit of God calls us from north, south, east and west;
some of us come from busy, crazy, homes with many people
some of us from quiet, peaceful, rooms where we live alone.
Even as we shelter in place, we come to God's throne, boldly.
We are all a part of the family. God is with us.

This week has been different for each of us;
some of us have had happy news we want to celebrate,
some of us are facing grief and loss,
others are dealing with financial hardship or sickness.
All of us have had our normal disrupted,
our expectations dashed, and our plans changed.
Yet, we gather as one...all members of God's family.
We take heart, for God draws near to us.

Today we all come to the same place; to the very throne of God.
We come, as one, seeking God's presence in our lives
all of us longing for God's shalom.
Together we are God's family. God loves us. God is with us.
Let us worship God!

Hymn

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”
Dr. Dorway and Dana Pope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEmKW-LU0Pg>

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you...
and also with you.*

In this time of social distancing it is important for us to remember that in Christ we are connected to all who believe in Jesus in every time and place. As the world continues to be isolated, and many are feeling anxious, as Christians we share the peace of Christ as a way to offer hope and the joy of Christ. Again today we use the familiar words, "The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you ... and also with you."

Now, or after your time of worship, reach out via text, email, phone or video call, to someone outside of your home extending the invitation to enter into the peace of Christ with our faith community.

Praise God, that His peace is with us, always!

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zaZrIKQErQ>

Today, O God, we come to You in our separation, longing for connection to the body of Christ, and to You. We come seeking strength for the journey, and for Your love to shine brightly in and through us. We draw near to You, fully aware that we need Your help, Your forgiveness, and Your grace. Speak to us now, Your words of life. Help us to show goodness and mercy, help us to love You and others more deeply, and grant us ears to hear Your still small voice, that we might be instructed in the way we are to go.

On this day, O God, we lift up to You our mothers. Those that we cherish in our hearts and memories, those we long to be with, but are unable...due to quarantine, distance, or death, as well as those women that have helped us along the way. The ones we claim as our own. Great God, thank You for their legacy of love that left imprints on us, that helped to form our character. Thank You for the faith in Christ that was shared with us, and on which we stand.

We also, today, lift to You the mothers who failed us, who struggled with motherhood, who hurt or abandoned us. We bear the scars and pain of rejection from them, but we know that they bear scars as well. Today, we ask for Your healing, Great Physician, we plead for Your help to learn that our value comes from You, and Your love. Not our failures, or those of others. Help us to forgive and to grow into the knowledge that Your love covers us as well as those that hurt us.

Today as we pray, we lift up to You (with thanksgiving), women who are rising to the challenge of raising children. We pray Your blessings would rain down upon them. On this day we pray that there would be joy in time with family. We pray laughter would win out over tasks and to do lists, and in this time of quarantine good memories would be made, faith in Christ built, and families restored and renewed.

Today we acknowledge that motherhood is complicated, Great God. So, as we pray we ask for Your hand to hold us and Your Word to impart wisdom and life into our hearts, that in these matters of relationships we would resemble and emulate Christ.

We continue to ask Your hand of healing and blessing on Your world. Protection for all who serve us...those on the front lines - working for our health and well-being. We ask God that You would help Your world to heal, we plead for a cure for covid, and cancers, dementia and alzheimers, autoimmune disorders and the other illnesses with which we deal. Help us to support one another and grow together into a more loving community, that would reach out and bless Your world.

We pray these things as Jesus taught us to pray, saying: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Hymn/Praise

Jesus Loves Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C63z5hCd7bc>

Children's Message

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mM3tnBgZZj4>

Today the children are asked how they celebrate Mother's Day. Do they give gifts, have parties with balloons? How do you celebrate your mom? The children are challenged to remember that their moms are gifts from God. Mothers love their children even before their children are aware. Mothers care for their children. Like God, mothers forgive, heal, and love their children. The children then asked what the best gift is, to give a mother? The answer is love. Gifts of grace and love deserve love in return.

At the close of the children's message take a moment with your children and ask them what are some ways they can show love to their mother, grandmother, or others who have loved them. Make a list and then practice!

Special Music

“Amazing Grace”

Cyndi Wilson, Bells and Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfUa5bKxnAo>

Reading of the Word

Galatians 5:13-21 Rosa Gonzales

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNHP_D4sRak

Message

“Growing Fruit of the Spirit”

Pastor Jim Houston-Hencken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2D5MwcqqMs>

Today is Mother's Day in the Twilight Zone as we celebrate mom's while social distancing ourselves from everything our moms stand for. Think about it. Think about the things your mom taught you. If your mom is like my mom, she taught you how to be a friend to others, how to have respectable manners. She taught you how to be polite and not to use bad words in the presence of others. Your mom taught you how to eat at the table with others. She taught you the importance of sharing. She taught you that hugs are good and that you should not fight with others, particularly your brother or sister! Your mom, as a good mother, should have taught you how to act in polite society and get along with others. And now we are in lock-down celebrating Mother's Day from a distance. So. Thanks mom, all that work and now look where it gets us. Home, isolated, growing beards and watching Netflix!

It is Mother's Day and we should not forget our moms. Call your mom today. Even if she or you are quarantined, she would still like a call.

In honor of our moms, today we are looking at the book of Galatians and Paul's words about the fruits of the Spirit of God. The text you just heard is the introduction to the fruits of the Spirit passage of Paul's writing in Galatians 5:22-26. In the prior text Paul says, "you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters." Here is what Paul is saying. God has come to this earth to give you grace. He suffered and died for you so that you may walk with God for eternity. He has given you His Spirit so that He is always with you if you want. You had no choice in this matter. God has done these things because He loves you and He is your God. You are a child of God.

The truth is, you have no choice in whether God loves you and gives you grace. He just loves you and cares for you because He wants to. And deep down you know this is true. You have been blessed well beyond what you deserve. You were given opportunity and energy, education, and experience all before you could even take advantage of it. When you have made bad decisions, God has given you grace and second chances. God gave you life and health and time and again God and His creation have healed you even when you did not take care of yourself or the gifts God has given you. That is grace my friends.

So, like a loving mother, God just loves you because He does. Like your mother loved you before you had a name, God loves you. But what you do with that love and grace is entirely your decision. Again, just like the love and care your momma gave you. You can ignore her teaching and influence in your life, or you can freely choose to live into her gifts by practicing the things she taught. If you choose the latter your life will not only bless you, but you will also bear the fruit of a loving parent in your life.

So, it is with God. You are free to choose how you will respond to the grace and love of God. You were given freedom by God as to whether you want to be a child of God. Paul suggests that you should choose grace and turn from evil, but it is your choice. You can choose to live a life of Grace or you can choose to ignore the grace God has given.

If you do choose grace and choose to be a follower of God, the blessings are the fruit of the spirit. That is, if you choose goodness, goodness will result. If you choose evil, you will see evil grow. It is not that hard to figure out. Listen to how the Apostle Paul explains this:

¹³ You, my brothers, and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”^[b]

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking, and envying each other.

If you choose, freely, to be a follower of Christ, your life will change, and you will be in a direction that produces character. That character is defined by things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and the most difficult of all, self-control. If you choose a different path you will have a different outcome.

Isn't this the great theology of Uncle Ben Parker in Spiderman who said, “with great power comes great responsibility?” God has given you a great gift. He has given you life, resources, and opportunity. He has given you grace and forgiveness when you have failed. He has given you second chances. Now the question is with these great gifts, what will you do? Will you be responsible, will you make the responsible choice that produces good fruit in your life?

So where are you in your life? Are these things, the fruit of your labor in life producing the fruit of good character? Or do you find yourself pursuing the selfish desires of the flesh and this world? As Dr, Phil would say, “how is it working out for you?” If you don’t like the fruit of your labor and life choices, it is time to make a different choice. That is the freedom God has given you. You can say yes to that which is right, that which is good. And you can say no to that which is wrong. When you make the right decision the fruit of the spirit will bloom in your life.

We Respond to the Voice of God

Tithes & Offerings

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cN4TMrvF-6M>

In these moments, remember and share ways that God has brought light and life, joy and other blessings into your life this past week. In addition, share ways you will offer yourself to God today and in the days ahead. Take this time to return your tithe to the church via mail or online giving, using text to give or the following link:

<https://onrealm.org/gracepclv/-/give/now>

Offertory

“In Heavenly Love Abiding”

Lisa Elliott and Dr. Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ez4yL444m9A>

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmOl64vncvs>

Please pray with me: God of all creation, bless us as we offer all that we have and all that we are, Your tithes and our offerings, our time, talents, and energies. We pray, Heavenly Father, that You would bless them and multiply them for the good of Your kingdom and for the salvation of the world. Help us this week to remember that because of Your love we have all that we need, and enough to share with the world. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

Closing Song

“It Is Well With My Soul”

Dr. Dorway and Dana Pope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3wR3GcSzhA>

Benediction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63HSNB8HBcQ>

May God’s goodness be yours,
Well, and seven times well may you spend your days
May you be an isle in the sea
May you be a star in the darkness
May you be a staff to the weak
May you be rest for the weary,
May the love that Jesus Christ has for you fill everyone’s heart for you
And, may the love that Jesus Christ has for you fill your heart for everyone
Now and forevermore. Amen

Postlude

“Alleluia”

C Callahan

Dr. David Dorway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rngtHt2YnYU>

As you continue to worship this week, please keep the following people in prayer, and reach out to one another in word or deed.

In Need of Prayer

Dolores Harris (*Merrill Gardens*)

Mary Phillips (*Legacy House*)

Bill Franklin (*Summerlin Hosp.*)

Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Alice Black, Bill Carlston, Bob Clark,

Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie Everhart,

Joice Franklin, Mary Gafford, Pam Kodey, Lara Kolberg,

Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis, Sherrie Miles, Beth More, Don Neeley,

Maggie O’Donnell, Alice & Gary Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Russ & Pat Reid,

Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Marty Swartout, Nick Vogelzang, Sharon

Wilson, Dick Wohletz, Lynne Zenier, Kathy Koch.

In Memoriam:

Jack Crockett 3/18/2020

Randy Innis 3/18/2020

Clark Trapp 3/18/2020

Ruthy Stull 3/19/2020

Ted Phillips 4/1/2020

Violet Cross 4/4/2020

Bill Franklin 5/4/2020
Greg Holt 5/7/2020