

## A Suggested Home Worship Service for 3/22/20

(Prepared for Hopewell Presbyterian Church)

(Adapted from *Heidelbergblog.net*)

- **Open with prayer.** Since before the Reformation Christian worship services have begun with the recitation of Psalms 124:8– “Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.” Amen.
- **Sing a Psalm of Response**, e.g., Psalm 100B (“the old hundredth”), which is well known and easily sung *a cappella* - **this is the song we sing after the offering is taken up**. Audio file here: <https://hymnary.org/media/fetch/198928>

PSALM 100

### 100B All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1. <sup>1</sup>All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing  
2. <sup>2</sup>Know that the LORD is God in - deed; he  
3. <sup>3</sup>O en - ter then his gates with joy, with -  
4. <sup>4</sup>Be - cause the LORD our God is good, his

to the LORD with cheer - ful voice. <sup>5</sup>Serve him with joy, his  
formed us all with - out our aid. We are the flock he  
in his courts his praise pro - claim! Let thank - ful songs your  
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure. His faith - ful - ness at

prais - es tell, come now be - fore him and re - joice!  
sure - ly feeds, the sheep who by his hand were made,  
tongues em - ploy. O bless and mag - ni - fy his name!  
all times stood and shall from age to age en - dure.

William Kethe, 1561; alt.

GENEVAN 134 (OLD HUNDRETH) L.M.  
Louis Bourgeois, 1551

*5. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.*

- **Pray for God’s presence and blessing:**

Almighty God,  
to whom our hearts are open,  
our desires are known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the gracious power of Your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love You  
and worthily magnify Your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- **Read God’s Holy Law:** (Exodus 20:3–17;ESV)

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

- **Confess your sins :**

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against Your holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and so we are helpless without You.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders, spare us, as we confess our faults,  
restore us, as we are penitent, according to Your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus our Lord, and grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and devout life, to the glory of Your holy name.  
Amen.

- **Read a promise of forgiveness thus:**

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9; ESV).

- **Read a song of thanksgiving:** e.g., [Exodus 15:1–21](#)
- **Read a prayer for the illumination of the Word,** thus:  
 BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.
- **Read a passage of Scripture,** [Ephesians 1](#). In Acts we are studying Paul at Ephesus.
- **Say a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession,** e.g., O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind: We humbly intercede on behalf of all people, that You would be pleased to make Your ways known to them, Your saving grace to all nations.  
 Help Kevin and Jan Reynolds in Germany – protect them, give them opportunity to share the gospel in these trying times.  
 Give favor to Mike and Tricia Lee who are unable to return to the mission field at this time. Protect their church in Panama and give their elders wisdom and guidance in this time.  
 More especially, we pray for the universal church, that it may be so guided and governed by Your Holy Spirit, that all who profess to be and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and embrace the faith in the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.  
 Finally, we commend to Your fatherly goodness all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or any other way. We especially pray for those at Hopewell who are sick, hurting, and in need. May it please You to comfort and relieve them, according to their particular needs, giving them patience in their sufferings and a blessed deliverance out of all their afflictions.  
 All this we ask for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.
- **Read from the [Heidelberg Catechism](#),**  
 Question and Answer 1. *Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?*  
*A. That I am not my own,*  
*but belong—*  
*body and soul,*  
*in life and in death—*  
*to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.*  
*He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,*  
*and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil.*  
*He also watches over me in such a way*  
*that not a hair can fall from my head*  
*without the will of my Father in heaven;*  
*in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.*  
*Because I belong to him,*  
*Christ, by his Holy Spirit,*  
*also assures me of eternal life*  
*and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready*  
*from now on to live for him.*

- **Sing a Psalm of Praise and Thanks**, e.g., Psalm 23 Sound file here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWr0DrDewGM> (tune: Crimond), which is widely known and easily sung *a cappella*.

COMFORT, DEATH, AND GLORY

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
 You anoint my head with oil;  
 my cup overflows.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## The LORD's My Shepherd 319

Psalm 23

CRIMOND

1. The LORD's my Shep - herd, I'll not want. He  
 2. My soul He doth re - store a - gain; and  
 3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, yet  
 4. My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed in  
 5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall

makes me down to lie in pas - tures green; He  
 me to walk doth make with - in the paths of  
 will I fear no ill; for Thou art with me,  
 pres - ence of my foes; my head Thou dost with  
 sure - ly fol - low me; and in God's house for

lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 right - eous - ness, ev'n for His own name's sake.  
 and Thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
 oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 ev - er - more my dwell - ing place shall be.

WORDS: Psalm 23; *Scottish Psalter*, 1650

CM

MUSIC: Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1871; harm. David Grant, 1872

- **Close with prayer**

Our heavenly Father,  
we ask You to look upon us in grace,  
as we look away from ourselves into the face of Your Son, whom You have  
appointed our Mediator and Savior.

As all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Your Son, guide us by  
Your Holy Spirit into the true understanding of the doctrines of Christ.

May our meditation upon His truth produce in us the fruit of righteousness to the glory and exaltation of  
His name, the instruction and edification of this congregation, and the salvation of the lost through our  
witness.

We pray this in the name and favor of Your well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, in dependence on His Holy  
Spirit. Amen.

- Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come. Your 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.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **Evening Service**

You can follow a similar pattern for a time of evening worship and prayer.

**Prayer:** Adoration, Thanks, Petition, Intercession

**Sing:** *Amazing Grace*

**Read: *Romans 12:1-2*** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a  
living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this  
world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,  
what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Read a Confession of Faith:** *Heidelberg Catechism*

**26 Q. What do you believe when you say “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and  
earth”?**

A. That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything  
in them,<sup>1</sup> who still upholds and rules them  
by his eternal counsel and providence,<sup>2</sup> is my God and Father  
for the sake of Christ his Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide  
whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this vale  
of tears. He is able to do this because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

**27 Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?**

A. Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God<sup>1</sup> by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven  
and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years,  
food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty — all things, in fact, come to us not by chance  
but by his fatherly hand.

**28 Q. How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?**

A. We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

May the Lord bless you and yours today and especially tomorrow on the Lord's Day as we gather as those who bear the name of Christ, who rest in his all-wise providence, and who rejoice in the grace of Christ and the salvation that he has earned and freely given to all his people.

**Read: Ephesians 2**

**Closing Prayer:** First Day Evening: The Teacher

O GOD,  
We bless thee, our Creator, Preserver, Benefactor, Teacher,  
for opening to us the volume of nature where we may read and consider thy works.  
Thou hast this day spread before us the fuller pages of revelation,  
and in them we see what thou wouldest have us do,  
what thou requirest of us,  
what thou hast done for us,  
what thou hast promised to us,  
what thou hast given us in Jesus.  
We pray thee for a conscious experience of his salvation,  
in our deliverance from sin,  
in our bearing his image,  
in our enjoying his presence,  
in our being upheld by his free Spirit.  
Let us not live uncertain of what we are, of where we are going.  
Bear witness with our spirit that we are thy children;  
And enable each one to say, 'I know my Redeemer.'  
Bless us with a growing sense of this salvation.  
If already enlightened in Christ, may we see greater things;  
If quickened, may we have more abundant life;  
If renewed, let us go on from strength to strength.  
Give us closer abiding in Jesus that we may bring forth more fruit,  
have a deeper sense of our obligations to him,  
that we may surrender all, have a fuller joy,  
that we may serve him more completely.  
And may our faith work by love  
towards him who died,  
towards our fellow-believers,  
towards our fellow-men.

*From Valley of Vision - <https://banneroftruth.org/us/devotional/first-day-evening-the-teacher/>*