

Hello! And thanks for using this week's Simple Liturgy as a part of your daily or gathered worship. Before you begin, take a few minutes to get a feel for how this Simple Liturgy will help you worship today.

This liturgy is meant to be a similar layout to our Sunday worship services. Our services are arranged the way they are for some good reasons. However, we're not trying to recreate our Sunday service here. We simply want to help you enjoy and express the parts of our Sunday services that matter the most in a way that is easy to do at-home. It may look like a lot, but it's simple to use. Just follow along! Here's how it will work:

We'll start with a Scripture reading because our worship always begins with God - with who He is, what He's said, and what He's done. Our worship is always a response to Him. It's not something we do to get Him to respond to us. No, God steps towards us first. This means that you can think of our songs as the way we respond to God together: He speaks to us through His Word, and we sing to Him and each other in light of what He says to us. So after this reading, you'll sing a song of worship.

Next, we'll move into a time of prayer. God putting Himself on display is like a light being turned on in the dark. We can see ourselves and our world more clearly, and it's usually not a pretty sight. We see a whole lot of brokenness - some of it is sin that needs to be confessed, and some of it is suffering that needs to be lamented. This time of prayer will be a way of responding to God in light of what He reveals about us and our world, and the song that follows will continue that expression.

But God is not just a light that reveals everything broken inside and outside of us. He is a Savior who heals it all. He has good news to speak about what He's done to bring surefire forgiveness and hope! That good news is the gospel. We'll read a passage that points us straight to Jesus, and we'll sing a song of praise in response to the good news that He's finished the work that forgives and heals all wrongs.

After that, you'll be led to watch Pastor Jeremy's devotional so that God can teach and speak candidly and specifically to you. You'll end your time with a prayer and blessing for the days ahead..

A few more helpful notes:

- 1) Don't be weirded out by the word "liturgy". It may make you think of solemn religious rituals. Or you may associate it with a theology/expression of Christianity you feel isn't right or true. We're using the word "liturgy" because it means "the work of the people". It's another way of saying, "This is the framework of how we'll celebrate the gospel and respond to God with renewed faith and thanks together."
- 2) This liturgy is written to work for someone who is leading the time of worship in a home - either with their family, friends, or Community Group. But it's also written so that those pieces are fruitful for you even if you're alone. We encourage you to let all of it lead you to hear God clearly and respond to Him genuinely.
- 3) Lastly, you may feel weirded out by doing certain things out loud like reading Scripture or singing in such a small group. We encourage you to be brave! Hearing Scripture being read to you and over you is a sweet gift to your soul. It's a physical experience of the spiritual reality that God is present. The same is true for singing. Your singing, even if you can't carry a tune, will be an experiential reminder to those in the room that they are not alone - that God is with them and that you are with them, too. And if you're alone, sing solely to God. He is singing, too, and rejoicing over you with love (Zeph. 3:17).
- 4) Each video is linked individually. [Here is the full youtube playlist.](#)

Enjoy worshipping today!

## SIMPLE LITURGY | WEEK OF MARCH 22

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

*(LEADER)* Today, we're worshipping in a strange reality. Have any of us ever had to hunker down in our homes for so long or be so careful about who we're with and where we go? Coronavirus is making some of us feel pretty afraid and anxious. Others of us are annoyed and angry at the high levels of caution. Some of us may not feel all that strongly...other than being bored out of our minds. And we may have a ways to go.

How does God expect us to feel right now? *(discuss)*

We might think God's Word is always on the bright side of things, that there's nothing that echoes or affirms what we're feeling. We might think He expects us to banish our fears and frustrations or wants our faith to always wear a smile. But if we look to the Psalms, we'll find something surprising. Time and time again, we'll find God giving us permission to feel what we feel. And, just as importantly, we'll find Him giving us words to say, sing, and pray in times like these.

Let's look at one of those together. This is Psalm 3. Would someone like to read this out loud for us?

### READ:

#### **Psalm 3**

"O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;  
many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God."

But you, O Lord, are a shield about me,  
my glory, and the lifter of my head.

I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill.

I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

I will not be afraid of many thousands of people  
who have set themselves against me all around.

Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!

For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people!"

*(LEADER)* This psalm, like many, is written in hindsight. Notice the fear and the crying out to God in the moment. David is writing this after surviving the night hiding in a cave while thousands of armed men are hunting for him, men his own son sent after him. He makes sure to remember what he felt. In all that horror and unknown, God gave David the gift of sleep. He sustained him through the night. This is who our God is to us as well. We are weak, but He remains strong. He listens to our cries. He gives sleep. He sustains. Let's put the full weight of our cares on Him today as we sing a song of thanks!

### SING:

["Our Great God" from YouTube playlist](#)

### PRAY:

*(LEADER)* God is God. We are not. This truth frees us to be weak and afraid. It invites us to step away from our pride. It

*spurs us to draw near to God. Let's do that together through prayer. Take some time to silently tell God how you really feel about everything happening in the world and what it may mean for you. I'll lead us in a short prayer together after a few minutes. (give a few minutes for silent prayer)*

*Let's pray together:*

"Father God,

We cannot help but be occupied by things too great and too marvelous for us.

We look for hope and answers in each day's news cycle.

We long for the way things were and the return of safety, comfort, and routine.

Your Word tells us that our searching and longing is a groaning for something far greater that has echoed through all creation from the day sin and curse first infected the world.

Our hope is not in updates on the fight against Coronavirus.

Our hope is not in pending laws, bills, or elections.

Our hope is not even in our ability to distance ourselves or wash our hands well.

It is in our Savior Jesus Christ:

who holds all creation together,

who draws near to unclean sinners and sufferers like us,

who spilled his blood to wash us clean and felt death's sting to set us free,

who has promised to come bring an end to our groaning like a mother weans her child,

to wipe away every tear, remove all death, mourning, crying, and pain and make all things new.

Advances against the spread of Coronavirus,

social-distancing,

brave and courageous public servants and leaders,

our autonomy to have our own routines, opinions, and choices:

These are all great gifts from you.

But they are terrible hopes.

Help us set our eyes on the only one worthy of all our hope, Jesus Christ. Amen."

Based on Psalm 131 & 146:3, Romans 8:22-25, and Revelation 21:3-5a

**SING:**

["Is He Worthy" from YouTube playlist](#)

**CELEBRATE THE GOSPEL:**

*(LEADER) Let's hear the hope of the gospel together! Would someone like to read this out loud for us?*

## 2 Corinthians 4:6-10, 16-18

“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is in the face of Jesus Christ. But we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; confused, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also been seen in our bodies...So we do not lose heart. Though our outer selves are wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things we can see are temporary, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

*(LEADER) We are weak! And that is how it ought to be. We contain a great treasure - a great hope in a God who has saved us and bought us an eternal glory that makes quarantine, suffering, and even death a light and momentary affliction. Let's thank God for this grace and stir our joy in Him as we sing!*

### SING:

#### “I Stand Amazed” from YouTube playlist

Verse 1:

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene

And wonder how He could love me - a sinner condemned, unclean

Chorus:

How marvelous! How wonderful!

And my song shall ever be

How marvelous! How wonderful

Is my Savior's love for me

Verse 2:

He took my sin and my sorrows and made them His very own

He bore the burden to Calvary and suffered and died alone!

Bridge:

Oh, what kind of love is this?

You would die so I would live?

I stand amazed! I stand amazed!

Bore the curse of all my sin -

Made your enemy your friend

I stand amazed! I stand amazed!

Verse 3:

When with the ransomed in glory His face I at last shall see

Shall be my joy through the ages to sing of His love for me!

**DEVOTIONAL:**

[Pastor Jeremy's Video - Acts 11:19-30 from YouTube playlist](#)

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

*(LEADER) Let me read this benediction from the book of Hebrews as a prayer and blessing for the week ahead:*

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

“Now may the God of peace - who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great Shepherd of the sheep, and made an eternal covenant with his blood -  
may he equip you with all you need for doing his will.

May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him.

All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.”