

SIMPLER LITURGY | WEEK OF MARCH 22ND

Hello! And thanks for using this Simpler Liturgy for your gathered or daily worship.

Our Simpler Liturgy is one rhythm each of “READ, PRAY, SING.” It’s geared to help you do Family Worship with younger kids who have short attention spans, but it’s also great if you are less inclined or able to use technology during this time.

Here is a [link to the youtube playlist for this week](#). Each week’s song will be a hymn in case you’d rather just sing it without accompaniment. Enjoy worshipping today!

READ:

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.”

PRAY:

It is a great relief in times like this to remember that we are fragile but God is not. Take some time to silently tell God how you really feel about everything happening in the world and what it may mean for you. Express your frailty to Him. Ask for His strength and for the hope of the gospel to outweigh the worries of the day.

If you’d like, feel free to also pray this guided prayer:

“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:

“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
He made them His very own
He bore the burden to Calvary
and suffered and died alone!

Chorus:

How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be
How marvelous! How wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me

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!

Chorus:

How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be
How marvelous! How wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me