

SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR 3-22-2020¹

- **Open with prayer.**
 - **Read Psalm 124:8** “Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.” Amen.
- **Sing a Song of Praise** – this can be done a cappella, with piano, or find a recording on Youtube. If you do not have a hymnal, you can look up the lyrics online. Some suggestions:
 - *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, (LUYH #521; Grey Psalter #486; Blue Psalter #314)
 - *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* (LUYH #538; Grey #249; Blue #317)
- **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:** Read Exodus 20:1-17 – you can have one person read this or take turns.
- **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.

¹ This liturgy is adapted from a liturgy created by R. Scott Clark on his blog, *The Heidelberg*. He created this liturgy to be used for home worship in light of church cancellations due to COVID-19. You can read the entire blog post here: <https://heidelberg.net/2020/03/on-cancelling-services-and-holding-devotions-at-home-on-the-christian-sabbath/>

- **Read a promise of forgiveness:**
“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
- **Read a song of thanksgiving:** e.g., Exodus 15:1–21; or sing a song of thanksgiving
- **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. [Specific prayers may be added for missions / missionaries and church plants / church planters.]
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 [specific needs are mentioned]. 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 a prayer for the illumination of the Word:**
BLESSED Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.
- **Watch the sermon on Facebook:** www.facebook.com/crclucas
 - If you cannot get our sermon to work on Facebook, or if you choose to watch a different sermon, here are a couple of recommendations for sermons that are timely:
 - Derek Thomas – First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC.
<https://vimeo.com/397790274>
 - David Murray – First CRC, Byron Center, MI
<https://www.facebook.com/firstbyroncrc/videos/567833233830672/>
- **Read from the Heidelberg Catechism,** e.g., 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 Song of Praise and Thanks**, e.g., *How Vast the Benefits Divine* (LUYH #688; Grey #497; Blue #386)
- **Close with prayer**, e.g.,
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.

ARTICLE 23: THE JUSTIFICATION OF SINNERS

We believe
that our blessedness lies in the forgiveness of our sins
because of Jesus Christ,
and that in it our righteousness before God is contained,
as David and Paul teach us
when they declare that man blessed
to whom God grants righteousness
apart from works.

And the same apostle says
that we are justified “freely” or “by grace”
through redemption in Jesus Christ.
And therefore we cling to this foundation,
which is firm forever,
giving all glory to God,
humbling ourselves,
and recognizing ourselves as we are;
not claiming a thing for ourselves or our merits
and leaning and resting
on the sole obedience of Christ crucified,
which is ours when we believe in him.
That is enough to cover all our sins
and to make us confident,
freeing the conscience from the fear, dread, and terror
of God’s approach,
without doing what our first father, Adam, did,
who trembled as he tried to cover himself
with fig leaves.

In fact,
if we had to appear before God relying—
no matter how little—
on ourselves or some other creature,
then, alas, we would be swallowed up.
Therefore everyone must say with David:
“Lord, do not enter into judgment with your servants,
for before you no living person shall be justified.”