

## Sample Digital Liturgy

**If your congregation has canceled in-person worship for the next few weeks, here is a liturgy which a single person can lead via Livestream.**

*At the beginning of the stream, the facilitator might want to post the order of service - along with any notes of which viewers should be aware - in the comments or video description.*

*If you're a singer or are able to lead this liturgy with a church musician, incorporating music can be meaningful ([onelicense.net](https://news.onelicense.net/2020/03/13/one-license-offers-gratis-licenses-to-help-cope-with-covid-19-challenges-valid-through-april-15/) is currently offering one month of free licensing: <https://news.onelicense.net/2020/03/13/one-license-offers-gratis-licenses-to-help-cope-with-covid-19-challenges-valid-through-april-15/>). Placing links to YouTube videos of meaningful hymns or songs that viewers can watch after the service is also an option.*

### Welcome

Friends, Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that we are the body of Christ. Remember that whether we are face-to-face or looking at a screen, we are meeting together as a part of that body and serving the God whom we know through Jesus. No matter from where you are watching this feed, know that you are not only a part of the body of Christ, but also a part of our church family and are welcome here. As you're joining, please let us know who you are and from where you are watching, so that we can welcome you [*the service leader might also write this in the feed so that those who join late can be acknowledged*].

### Opening Prayer

Holy God,

You promise to be with us at all times and through each and every obstacle that we encounter. You never promise us that our lives will be easy, but you do promise to be with us and that promise is enough. Today, we give you thanks for the technology that connects us, even as we are physically separated. Just a few years ago, worship with each other in separate spaces would not have even been possible. We are grateful that we are able to be together and that we can worship you. We ask that you send your Holy Spirit to be with us in these spaces and, indeed, in cyberspace, so that this might be worship for us.

Amen.

### Peace

*Welcome anyone who may have joined during the Opening Prayer, then "pass the peace."*

*Say: May the Peace of Christ be always with you.*

*Encourage people to say or type: And also with you.*

### Prayer Concerns

*Ask people to type any prayer concerns that they might have while the worship leader states prayer concerns for the community, nation, and world, then lift up prayer concerns from the feed.*

## **Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer**

Wondrous God, who created us from the dust of the stars and breathed life into us,

We extol you as we think about how you are woven throughout our lives. For those often-subtle ways that you make yourself known to us. Through laughter with friends, a meal with loved ones, a community worshipping together – even if it is across cyberspace – the vibrant purples, oranges, and pinks of a sunset, and in the faces of strangers. Help us to be jubilant people who are inspired by the wonderful tapestry that you create in our lives.

Hold the earth in your compassionate embrace. Touch our hearts, make us people of your grace. Be with all of those who are affected by the coronavirus or by any illness. We especially lift up those who will lose hours at their workplaces and may not be able to pay their bills. We remember children who may be without meals while they are away from school. We acknowledge those who are lonely and are further isolated during this time. May we all find strength in your abiding presence.

Yet, even during this time, may we rejoice that our lives that are made new by you – that with each passing day, you present us with new opportunities. May we, especially during this time when we are encouraged to be apart, find a new appreciation for our connectedness to our neighbors. May we acknowledge that we are bound together – and see that as a blessing instead of a curse.

Continue creating within us, God. Help us to be transformed – to always seek new life in you – to continually experience the power of your resurrection as old ways of thinking die and new ways are revealed to us as we live and grow. May we see your work and rejoice in the ways that you are with us. May your transforming presence create generosity in place of greed, harmony in place of hatred, goodness of spirit in place of bitterness and resentment, and may we make the decision each day to be followers of Jesus - to dedicate our lives to you anew.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus who 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.”

## **Communion**

*Encourage people to have bread and grape juice or perhaps any food and drink that is convenient. The presider can then bless the feast in a manner appropriate for the tradition. Once the presider's elements have been blessed, all can be encouraged to share together. An example is below:*

While Jesus and his disciples were all able to be in the same room, we recognize that this meal is a holy mystery that unites us across both time and space. In that spirit, we remember that on a night long ago Jesus was gathered with his friends in an upper room

to celebrate the Passover meal. After supper he took a loaf of bread [*presider lifts the loaf in front of the camera and breaks*] gave thanks for it and broke it saying, “This is my body, which is given for you.” In the same way, also after supper, Jesus took a cup [*presider takes juice, pours it into the cup, and lifts it in front of the camera*] and said, “This cup represents a covenant of love that includes each and every person.” Jesus often shared meals, so whenever we eat and drink together, we remember him. Even when we are not at the same table, we know that God is with us. *Presider invites everyone to partake.*

### **Offering**

*If a congregation has online giving, it is appropriate for people to give online during this service. Tell people how they can support the ministry and teach them how to give online by sharing an appropriate link. If a congregation has not set up online giving, it is relatively easy to set up through Facebook.*

### **Scripture Reading**

### **Sermon**

*Remember that since you are most likely reading the sermon from a computer that you ought to make an extra effort to look directly at the camera, so that people feel like you are speaking to them.*

### **Benediction**

Friends,

Go forth from this digital space into your daily lives. Do not be afraid, for God has promised to be with you at all times and through all circumstances. Until we meet again – online or in person – may you be encircled by the light of the Divine and filled with peace and love.

Amen.