



A Short Order for Worshiping at Home

22 March 2020

Preparation

Find a spot in your home for yourself/your family to engage in worship. If possible, include your Bible, a candle and a lighter/matches (a battery operated candle or low wattage table lamp also work) a small cross.

Call to Worship

One person says:

When circumstances and concern for the common good keep us from gathering at church to worship together in person we can still gather to pray. For even though we are separated in the body, we are ...

All say:

ONE IN THE SPIRIT and ONE IN CHRIST JESUS!

Candle Lighting

Light candle/lamp to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit in your worship.

Opening Prayer

Take a deep breath and give thanks for God's presence.

God of tender care,

like a mother you never forget your children,

but comfort and quiet those who are restless and fearful;

like a father you know already what we need.

In all our anxiety, give us the spirit of trust;

in all our worry, give us faithful hearts;

that in confidence and calm

we may seek the kingdom of Christ

where your holy will of peace and justice has been made known. Amen.

Song

Sing or listen to a favorite hymn or other worship song. Suggestions include:

- *In Christ Alone ...* <https://youtu.be/8kvFtXphmMU>
- *Sanctuary* by Carrie Newcomer ... <https://youtu.be/HjOioWTVAl4>

Scripture

Read a passage from the Bible.

- Old Testament ... Isaiah 49:8-16a
- Psalm ... Psalm 131
- New Testament ... Matthew 6:24-35

Sermon

1. Talk together about what you think the scriptures are saying to you today in your present circumstances
2. Listen to, watch, or read a sermon. You can listen to podcasts of previous Avondale UMC sermons by going to avonumc.net/sermons.

Song

Sing or listen to a favorite hymn or other worship song. Suggestions include:

- *Blessed Assurance* by CeCe Winans and Terrence Blanchard ... <https://youtu.be/fiSkmbzS4nw> ... music begins at 1:50 in the clip
- *Be Thou My Vision* ... <https://youtu.be/ihJAJA4ibEs>

Giving

Give thanks for God's faithfulness and provision. Contribute to the mission of your local church by writing a check or giving online. To give to Avondale UMC:

- *go online:* avonumc.net/giving
- *mail your offering to:* 500-40th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35222

Prayers of the People

Say a prayer from your heart. Pray for yourself, your family, your church community, your city, your state, your country, our world. Pray for the global health situation, particularly for those who are sick, those who are lonely, those who are gripped by fear, those who are facing financial hardship, those without safe shelter, those who are hungry, our healthcare workers, our leaders in every realm. Give thanks, once again, for God's faithfulness and seek God's guidance for ways to offer love and grace in the world right now.

Benediction

Say this verse aloud together:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (*Romans 15:13*)

Go in Peace

Check on someone you love today. Call, text, or email church members to check on them this week.