

## Worship in Place: a guide

First United Methodist of Cuero, Texas: Sunday, April 26, 2020

Out of an abundance of caution we gather in our homes for this time of worship.

*“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

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### Calling ourselves to worship with song:

This is the day (this is the day), that the Lord has made (that the Lord has made),

Let us rejoice (let us rejoice), and be glad in it (and be glad in it.)

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day (this is the day) that the Lord has made.

### Greeting and Announcements

#### Opening Prayer:

*God of the resurrection, we thank you for the new life you have given Jesus and all who follow him. Through the power of your Spirit, inspire us to make a leap of faith into your loving arms. May we believe the words of Scripture when they speak of your victory over death, and may we accept the promises you make for the future. We praise you for your love, your joy and your wonderful living hope - hope that points us to a future that we cannot see, but that we believe you will guide us through. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

#### **Hymn of Praise:** “His Eye is on the Sparrow”

- 1) Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come? Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home, When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:

#### **(REFRAIN)**

His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me; his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

- 2) Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise, when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies, I draw the closer to him, from care he sets me free: **(REFRAIN)**

**Reading from the Old Testament:** Psalm 42:1-6

**Special Music:** “As the Deer”

**Reading from the Gospel:** Luke 24:13-35

**A message for the day:** What are you talking about?

Pastor Ron

This story from the Gospel of Luke is familiar. It's the story of two men walking from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus. As they walk a stranger, who is really the resurrected Christ, joins them. They don't realize who the stranger is. And he asks them a simple question; "What are you talking about?" Hold onto that question. You'll need it in just a moment.

Verse 15 tells us that the two men had been talking about everything that had taken place; and by everything I guess they started with the entry into Jerusalem and continued all the way through the news that was already spreading that "*Jesus is risen from the dead.*" They were talking about their disappointments and how they "*had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel.*" They seem to be so deep in grief that they were having a difficult time believing the news of the Resurrection. That's what they were talking about.

And now, what about you; what are you talking about right now? I'll bet you aren't talking about the NCAA basketball tournament or the College World Series. You aren't talking to those seniors about graduation plans. You aren't talking to friends about your summer plans. No, my best guess is that you are probably talking about social distancing and where to find hand sanitizer. You are talking about canceled vacations, the shortage of masks in hospitals or how long will it be before someone, somewhere finds a vaccine for Covid-19. One of my constant questions when I call folks is "how are you doing?" So really, how are you doing?

It's easy to hit the skids during tough times and start a downward spiral if we aren't careful. We start making lists of the things we've lost or the things we'll miss out on. And make no mistake, there are many legitimate heartaches on that list. But there is another list, one with lots of good news on it. Families are sewing masks. Car factories are building ventilators. Churches are doing creative, online worship. Flowers are blooming. Birds are singing. Food banks are being hit hard, but they are finding ways to answer the needs. I invite you to talk about some of those things if you aren't.

Long ago on a dusty road between Jerusalem and the village of Emmaus, two men walked along talking about the tragic events they had witnessed. And suddenly the resurrected Christ was there with them, walking with them, talking with them and reminding how much more to the story there was. And he helped them open their eyes so that they could see.

It's ok to be disappointed or anxious. It's ok to cry. It's ok to be sad and to grieve. It's ok to be human. And it's ok to find hope, to heal, to move forward and find your second wind.

Be hopeful and be encouraged if for no other reason than the news is true; Jesus is risen from the dead.

That should give you something to talk about this week.

**Joys and Concerns/Lord's Prayer:**

**Sending forth with song:**

(Amazing Grace, verse 3.)

*Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come, 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.*

**Blessing & Benediction:**

**Worship Leaders:**

**Rev. Ron Welborn – Pastor**

**Darlene Welborn – Pianist**

**Rev. Wanda Ritchea & Sarah Ritchea – “This is the Day”**

**Kayla & Walker Pickett – Opening Prayer**

**Colette Barth – Old Testament**

**BJ Drehr – Gospel Reading**

**Pam Zengerle – Video Editing**