

# Worship in Place: a guide

First United Methodist of Cuero, Texas: Sunday, May 3, 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

**Pastor Ron**

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

## Greeting and Announcements

**Pastor Ron**

## Opening Prayer

**Sean Wolf**

*Loving God, we begin worship longing to see the faces of our friends and neighbors. We begin worship not together in one place, but separated and scattered. We know this time will not last forever, but sometimes it seems as though it will be forever. But during this moment, during this time of worship help us to see the faces of our sisters and brothers; help us to hear their voices; help us to imagine.*

*Your word has taught us to say “this is the day the Lord has made.” We proclaim that universal truth and respond by letting all within the sound of our voice know that “we will be glad.” Prepare us for worship. Prepare us to hear a word from Your heart today. And prepare us to be ready to respond to Your call. It is in the name of the Resurrected Christ we pray and begin worship this day. Amen.*

## Hymn of Praise:

*“They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love!”*

**Pastor Ron**

**Darlene Welborn**

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, (repeat)

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, (repeat)

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

### REFRAIN

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,*

*Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, (repeat)

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, (repeat)

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

### REFRAIN

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,

And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,

And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one:

### REFRAIN

**Reading from the Old Testament:**

Psalm 23

**Charlotte Wolf**

**Special Music:**

“Our God!”

**Sarah Ritchea**

**Reading from the New Testament:**

Acts 2: 42-47

**Sheldon Wolf**

Have you ever told someone “I need a little R and R?” Most of us have either said something akin to that, or we’ve thought it. R and R! Rest and relaxation.

In recent days my sleep, my nightly rest has fallen into one of three categories.

- 1) Like a log. (Whatever that means.)
- 2) Horrible. (That is pretty easy to understand.)
- 3) So, so. (Not a log, but not horrible either.)

Getting rest, a good night’s sleep is important but not always easy. We try to fall asleep thinking of all the storms breaking down upon us. We can’t find a comfortable position. We start making a list of all the things we have got to get done tomorrow and before we know it the cat’s meowing and wants to be fed. Sometimes finding a good night’s sleep, getting some serious R and R is the most valuable gift we could receive.

Scripture speaks often of rest, sometimes as a verb, sometimes as a noun. Jesus said, “come to me all ye are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) We read how God rested after Creation was finished. (Genesis 2:2) The Psalms allude to rest and other passages give us guidance and inspiration. But allow me to add part of a prayer.

The Serenity Prayer is well known to most of us: *God give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.* That part of the prayer is familiar. What may not be familiar are the words that follow because the original prayer did not end there. The prayer continues: *Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking as Jesus did this world as it is, not as I would have it. Trusting that you will make all things right.*

Living one day at a time is not quite the same as living day to day. The prayer asks us to focus our energy and our effort on today. It doesn’t mean we abandon our future plans; it’s just a prayer to help avoid trying to tackle all of our problems at once. Alcoholics anonymous uses a small pamphlet entitled Just for the Day in their ministry. A recovering alcoholic doesn’t make a plan to quit drinking forever. Instead that take it one day at a time asking God to help them not to drink for the next 24 hours. They don’t make New Year’s Resolutions. They make Daily Resolutions. The Serenity Prayer admits there are some things I cannot change. But that doesn’t change the reality that there is a God who is good, a God that created us and loves us.

During these storm-filled days, during these anxious times take it one day at a time. Focus your energy on today. Take responsibility for your own happiness. Don’t expect other people or stuff to make you happy. Take responsibility for your own rest. And please, let God be God in your life.

Tonight, be content with what you have done this day. The day is ended and you’ve done all you can. Let tomorrow be tomorrow. And rest knowing “*The Lord is my shepherd.*”

**Joys and Concerns**  
**Lord’s Prayer**

**Pastor Ron**

**Sending Forth**

**Pastor Ron**