

An Order of Worship for the Home

Prepared for March 29, 2020

This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak to one another and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can schedule a time to worship with you by phone.

There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. During this time as we "shelter in place" please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary. Online giving will soon be available at www.calvaryslz.org as well.

Welcome and Invocation

Reader 1: This is the day the Lord has made.

Reader 2: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Reader 1: It is good to worship our God

Reader 2: The God who is Father, Son and Spirit

Together: Amen

Psalm 31:1-5

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!

² Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily!

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!

³ For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

⁴ you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Confession & Absolution

Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in the fellowship. Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered.

Christian Confessing: I am a sinner in need of God's grace. My thoughts have been impure. My actions and words have caused harm. I've been slow to recognize my failings, and slow to seek forgiveness. But I'm here now. I am a sinner in need of God's grace.

Christian Responding: You are a baptized child of God. You have been united with Christ in his death, and his resurrection. God has put to death sin in you, and he raises you to a new and perfect life in Christ. In this new life you have forgiveness and salvation as a beloved child of God. Go in peace.

Both: Amen

First Reading

1 Peter 4:7-11

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:27-30

²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Message from Pastor Matt “God Given Burdens”

You're not a pastor, so you may not have heard of the “preacher's burden.” I've heard it mentioned most often among peers in evangelical circles. It can point to a couple things, but most often it's the feeling that something needs to be said for the sake of God's people.



The prophet Jeremiah had this burden. He described it like this:

*If I say, “I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,”
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot. (Jeremiah 20:9)*

You're not a preacher (most of you). You're not a prophet (again, most). Yet, if Jesus lives in you, you have a burden.

What is the godly desire you cannot hold back? What is it God has placed on your heart which compels you to act? Who is it God has convicted you to love? In other words, what is your burden?

I think God gives us burdens of several kinds. Your burden will likely be present in the stations you already fill. At times, it may push you beyond current roles and into new experiences. Which of these is your burden currently? Or, is there another which is not listed here?

The burden of a message. For some there is a word which must be spoken. There is a message which must be told. Jeremiah was given such a burden. The “preacher’s burden” is this type, but the burden of a message is not experienced only by pastors.

Is there some aspect of your faith you cannot stop talking about – life issues, family, singleness, reconciliation, healing or calling?

The burden of people. This does not mean that people are difficult to be around. In fact, this is quite the opposite. If your heart is burdened for a specific person, or for people in certain settings you will feel a yearning to connect and help. You have a deep longing to care and make God’s presence known.

Is there a person you feel this for – a family member, neighbor or friend? Are there people in certain settings you are burdened for – an ethnic group, an occupation, or victims of certain crimes or hardships?

The burden of community. This differs from the burden of people in that the burden of community is about people who are, or should be, connected with one another. Sometimes the two may be greatly intertwined, but often it’s not too difficult to tell which is primary and which is secondary in your heart. Consider whether you desire to spend time with individuals or with groups, and it may help you discern your burden.

The burden of community wants to see health in the interconnectedness of people. Are there communities you are burdened for – a city, a school, a church, or a family?

The burden of self. Finally, there is a place for self, and it’s not usually necessary to distinguish between a healthy burden of self and an unhealthy self-centeredness. It’s not necessary, because the prescription is the same for both. Caring for yourself requires repentance and submission as you receive God’s forgiveness and grace.

When it comes down to it, the burden of self is a longing for identity, which you have as a beloved child of God. Sometimes we’re burdened with the need to be reminded of that identity. When this happens, we confess, we remember our baptism, we revisit the promises of our God, and we lean into this burden by addressing the needs of our heart.

All of these burdens are good. These desires come from our God. When they’re healthy desires, they match his desires. If these are the burdens

God places on our hearts it is because these are the desires of his heart. He is burdened with a message for this world – his word of truth and love. He is burdened for people from every background, and those experiencing every hardship. He is burdened for communities and relationships among his children. And his heart is burdened for you, and for you to know him.

In fact, you are the reason Jesus bore the burden of the cross. He took that ugly burden on himself to satisfy the burden of longing he felt for relationship with you. The desire of his heart was to remove all the negative burdens in your life and allow you to share instead in the desires of his heart.

The burden of longing you have for your own identity is given by God, so that you might find your identity in Jesus. In his word he calls you precious. (Isaiah 43:4) In baptism he calls you a child in his family (Galatians 3:27-29). In his church he calls you holy and alive. (I Peter 2:4-5)

As the burden for self brings you to God's word and his people, your heart will be shaped by his desires. His desires will be the new burdens of your heart. You'll receive identity, and with that identity you'll receive calling. You'll experience the burden for a message, a people, or a community. You'll be given these desires as God shares the desires of his heart with you.

When you receive this, it's really no burden at all. It's simply your calling and your purpose in Christ who makes all your burdens light.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:29-30)

Q: What burden placed on your heart reveals the desire of God's heart?

Offering Prayer

If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.

Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.

Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.

Reader 2: Receive our offerings

Together: Receive us as your own.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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 trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen

Blessing

Reader 1: May the Lord, bless us and keep us.

Reader 2: May the Lord, make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.

Reader 1: May the Lord, look upon us with favor

Reader 2: And, give us peace.

Together: Amen

As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version will be available at www.calvaryslz.org. We can also add others to our mailing list if that is preferred.

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