



YOUTH SUNDAY

May 17, 2020

PREPARE

Locate a candle to light and communion elements to use (bread/juice or whatever is available to you).

Find a quiet place by yourself or with others.

Read through the instructions, prayers, scripture, and questions below. You can also find a guided, voice-led version of this digital liturgy at southeastelkhorncc.org/digital-liturgy

WELCOME THE LIGHT

Welcome to worship with South Elkhorn Christian Church. Light a candle if you are able and receive these words:

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

CENTERING & LORD'S PRAYER

Let us quiet our minds and hearts to pray:

Dear God, you who are our refuge and strength in times of trouble. We confess that we've been lonely and miss the laughter and presence of our friends. The Psalmist says there's a river whose streams make glad the city of God and we your church, your city, confess we need your river to flow through us and make us glad. We pray for our leaders who are trying to guide our city and state, our nation and world, through this hard time. We pray for our medical personnel, that they stay safe and strong, physically and emotionally, so that they may offer the care that is so needed right now. We pray for the poor and hungry, for those that have lost their jobs. May your spirit of generosity move in us so that we will know how to reach out and help. May they soon find a job. We thank you for the promise of the comforter, we thank you for the strength and refuge you provide, we thank you for the river of joy that flows from you into our hearts, and we thank you for 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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present* help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³ though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city;* it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ ‘Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.’

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

YOUTH SERMON

Hi my name is Steven Estepp, I am in 7th grade at Beaumont Middle, I hope everyone is doing well. (pause) We were all so excited for many things coming up this year. Kentucky was looking good enough to win the SEC tourney, March Madness was coming up, 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and many other things people were looking forward to like concerts and festivals. But, next thing you know here comes the coronavirus and it's all gone. And

that stinks, but we have to remember that God is always with us and to look on the bright side of things. We can mope and be sad about all of the things we lost as much as we want, but that won't change anything. However, on the other hand, if we focus on the things we gained because of quarantine we could come out as much better human beings. Instead of wishing we could watch the 2020 March Madness, we can be happy that because of quarantine we have so much more free time to do things like pray and to spend time with God. I think that we just need to take some time to remember that God IS with us and he will get us through this. I also think that this could be a life changing experience for us. Humans, like other animals, are creatures of habit. If we think of quarantine as a gift from God, and we use it to our advantage and take that extra free time to pray and spend with God, once quarantine is over we will continue to pray and find time to be with God, until it is something we do habitually. In addition, there is so much that we can take from this experience. This shows us how God is always with us and how he will not let anything happen to us. This is a huge opportunity to strengthen our relationship with him.

I personally think that I have grown closer to God because I have had so much time on my hands and have been able to sit and think about how lucky I am to have such a great God. Last, I would like you to think about how this experience has helped you to grow closer to God and what you can learn from it.

YOUTH SERMON

Hi! My name is Kennedy Fuqua, I'm 15 years old, and I am currently finishing my freshman year at Lafayette High School. So far, it has been amazing. In the fall, I joined the marching band, and I had a blast! We won every competition, and I made so many good friends. In the winter, I auditioned for our musical, "Hello, Dolly!". I made the cast, and we started rehearsing for our performance at the Opera House in the spring. I could not wait. My first ever musical in high school! I woke up every single day with renewed joy and excitement, because I knew that I had a rehearsal that night. This was my passion, and everything I've ever wanted to do in life. I was on cloud nine. That's why I was devastated when everything was cancelled. My heart broke not only for me, but for everyone who had to go through the process of losing something that gives you happiness. For a while, I focused on all that I lost. My musical being cancelled, not being able to see my friends, my freshman year being cut short, church camp and mission trips cancelling, not being allowed to go on vacation, my friends and family not being able to have a graduation ceremony, and more. I was sad, but I realized that I

was making everything worse by only thinking about the negative things. I came to the conclusion that I needed to focus on the positive moments. I decided that even when times are hard, if you change your mindset, everything will eventually get better. After I changed my way of thinking, I noticed some amazing things. For example: my family has bonded like never before, I'm not as stressed about my busy schedule, I've become more creative, I have more time to do things that I love, our finals were cancelled, nature is regrowing, animals are reclaiming their land, and everyone is realizing just how much we miss each other. I would have never seen such beautiful things if the Coronavirus pandemic hadn't happened. Before quarantine, life was busy and stressful. Everyone was so caught up in schedules and electronics, that we barely stopped to have a full conversation with someone. Now, all we want to do is talk face-to-face! I believe that God knew how much we needed to take a break from our world of distraction, and this pandemic is part of his plan to help us reconnect, and grow stronger in our faith. When we are scared or angry, we can turn to him and know that he has a plan for all of us. We can remember that in these times of suffering and pain, he is there, helping and supporting us every step of the way. This is our opportunity to grow not only as individuals, but as a family of faith. Let's take that opportunity and get through this together.

YOUTH SERMON

Hi, my name is Ellie Dennison and I am in the 10th grade at Lafayette high school. I think that everyone can agree that we have all lost something that was either important or we have lost something that we have been looking forward to. When I first heard about the coronavirus I really didn't take it seriously, which caused me to still look forward to sleepovers with friends, the mission trip, camp, prom, and the last day of school. None of that is going to happen this year and that is loss. Not a loss of a person to a pet but a loss to my heart and what I had to look forward to in the future. At the beginning of quarantine I was grounded. For me that meant no phone and no communication with anyone except my parents and brother. I was even more bored than I had already been but it allowed for a lot more to enter and return into my life. Grounded is the state of being well balanced and sensible. Being grounded allowed me to see Hope for the future. It allowed for me to connect with myself and God. I have also grown so much closer with my family, gained spirit, and realized that I have an early summer break. It's hard to have Hope in general but at this time it is even more difficult because we don't know what to have Hope for. Being able to have Hope and be grounded are both gifts from God. Take the gifts from God and receive them just like a Christmas gift, not for granted

but be optimistic with the gifts God gives us all the time. So maybe the coronavirus can become a time to take pride in all the gifts that God gives us. Embrace the Hope, except what is happening, pray, and trust that God's gifts will make us even stronger when all of this is over!

YOUTH SERMON

My name is Rachel Herrin and I am a senior at Henry Clay High School. At the beginning of my senior year I had no idea that everything I would look forward to would be gone. I never imagined that I would lose my final performances for both band and theater; that the band trip to Disney I had looked forward to all of highschool would be canceled weeks before we depart; or that I would lose my dream internship days after starting. Towards the beginning of quarantine I thought everyone was being a little over dramatic but I was okay for the most part because I would get to spend more time with my family. Everytime the district would announce another extension on school being out I would lose more hope. The only thing that was keeping me optimistic was the fact that I would eventually get to reconnect with my closest friends at camp Wakondaho in a few months. Once camp was canceled I was absolutely devastated. At night while lying in bed was when I would start thinking about all the things I was losing which eventually sent me in a downward spiral. One night I said enough was enough and so I started one of the most straightforward conversations I've ever had with God. Every night since then, I start it up again. I tell him how I feel, that I'm sad about losing things I held dear, that I'm angry at people who are making matters worse. And honestly angry at myself for how I've responded to these feelings. Since then, I have started asking for guidance for conflicts I face on a day to day basis. I have now been able to organize a multitude of projects I can work on and give as gifts to my friends that I've missed once quarantine ends. I use the time deciding what to make each person by thinking about what I love most about them which makes me feel close with my friends while staying well over six feet apart. Each project takes at least three to four hours to complete so I can use the time to do something I enjoy while thinking about those I miss. I always look forward to the time I will get to spend making gifts for my friends, it gives me hope each and every day. I used to be in the mindset of "wow I would have been performing music I had practiced for months with the Henry Clay Band on a stage at Disney right now" and wallow in my own sorrow, but now I can use my strong feelings as motivation to make those I love happy. While the gifts I am making have been a large part of keeping me cheerful through quarantine, nothing can amount to the tremendous levels of joy I feel when I am in the weekly youth group zooms. Whenever I am having a rough day I remind myself "there's

only a few more days until the zoom" because I know it will boost my spirits. The experience I've had as a senior in high school during this pandemic has really taught me a multitude of things. My perspective on the world has completely changed. I saw that while my situation was anything but optimal, this pandemic was affecting people worldwide and what I was losing was at the bottom of anyone's priorities. I was able to look in on myself and learn how joyful I become when giving to others. I also learned that sometimes you do need to just take a break. If you start thinking too much and get frustrated, it's okay to put things down and take a deep breath before picking the task back up again. This experience will forever have an impact on my life and so will those who were a part of it. I thank each and everyone at South Elkhorn for welcoming me in the summer of last year because if my faith were to still be at the point it was then, I wouldn't have made it this far through quarantine and quite possibly the year.

COMMUNION

Place before you bread and a cup of juice (or whatever you have on hand to use). If you are with others, serve one another with the blessing, “The bread of life, the cup of hope.”

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The communion elements before you unite us in Christ’s Spirit one to another. Christ’s life, death, and resurrection unite us to God’s infinite and all-inclusive Love. All are welcome to the Table, and all are invited to remember...

THE BREAD

“The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it...”

Hold the bread and, if possible, break it.

“...and said, ‘This is my body which is for you, do this in remembrance of me.’

THE CUP

Hold the cup. If you have not already, pour juice (or whatever you have on hand) into the cup.

“After supper, Jesus took the cup saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’

PRAYER

Gracious and Loving God, You have made us for connection. In this time of separation and isolation send to us your Spirit. That we might experience your sustaining presence and be encouraged with hope through the fellowship of your love. Amen.

Receive and prayerfully enjoy the bread and the cup.

GENEROSITY

Prayerfully consider someone to reach out to with a word of love, encouragement, or prayer. Write a card. Make a phone call. Or identify a time to do so today (or in the week ahead).

Tithes and offerings can be mailed to South Elkhorn or you can give online at

southeastelkhorncc.org/give

CHANGING THE LIGHT

Now it is time to change the light. The light that was in one place at one time, is now in all places at all times.

In this very room and everywhere we go. And all God's children said, Amen.

Extinguish the candle and watch the smoke rise.

UPDATES

Visit southeastelkhorncc.org/blog to learn the latest on worship, building usage, and more.

Digital Worship & Wonder videos available at southeastelkhorncc.org/worship-wonder.

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