

South Elkhorn Christian Church
Digital  *Liturgy*

March 15, 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 southelkhorncc.org/digital-liturgy

WELCOME THE LIGHT

Take a few long, deep breaths. Light a candle as a reminder that Christ is present.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95:1-7

O Come, let us sing to the Lord:
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God,
And a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;

The heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
And the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
And we are the people of his pasture,
And the sheep of his hand.

CENTERING & LORD'S PRAYER

God of all time and places,

You are here with us now, in this time and this place--across time and across places--connecting us here together. It is no ordinary day, this day, for many it means worshiping at home or far from church. For others it means no contact with loved ones behind quarantines and walls. And yet nothing can keep us from you, and in you, we remain connected one to another. This day we center ourselves on your loving presence, which draws us together in spirit, which strengthens us for the challenges, uncertainty, and isolation of this season. And which sends us out to minister to those in need, to love those who are rejected, to share words of hope, encouragement, and joy. Give us the gift of this moment, God, this wilderness moment when we can slow down and walk with you. Help us to see the way, and to follow in the footsteps of the one who knows the wilderness well, beginning with the words he taught us, as together we pray...

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

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written,

“One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” ’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you”,

and “On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’

Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

“Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.” ’

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

MEDITATION

Enter the story again, this time imagine what it might be like to accompany Jesus on this journey in the wilderness. In a spirit of prayer, reflect on these questions...

1. What is it like to quietly fast and pray for days and days in the wilderness? How does the silence feel?
2. What would it be like to follow Jesus as he prayed? What would you lift up in prayer there in the wilderness?
3. Jesus was tempted to find security in a bread miracle. What are the things you turn to, perhaps in haste, to feel secure and safe?
4. Jesus was tempted to make a spectacle of himself from the temple and win the admiration of the many onlookers. What are the ways you “put on an image” to win the admiration of others?

5. Jesus was tempted to circumvent his coming ministry of healing, teaching, and compassion and instead fix the world by controlling it. What are ways you might, even accidentally, attempt to control others? Why might that backfire or be short lived?
6. What would it be like to “attend to Jesus” at the end of this story? How would you care for him in his exhausted and weakened state? What might you learn from the way Jesus lets you show him care?

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.

Though we are many and scattered across distances, in Christ our spirits remain with each other and with the living God as one. Here at this table Christ cuts the distance between us with Love. We share in the goodness of God’s mercy and grace. This table is for all people.

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

southelkhorncc.org/give

CHANGING THE LIGHT

And now it is time to change the light. The light that was here in this time and this place goes with us to all time and all places, in this very room and everywhere we go.

Extinguish the candle and watch the smoke rise.

UPDATES

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

Watch for a digital Worship & Wonder story coming soon.

Subscribe to South Elkhorn’s text messaging alerts by texting:

@southelk to the number 81010