

WOLCOTT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
WORSHIPPING AT HOME, MAY 23-24, 2020

(Clicking on the text underlined in blue will take you to Youtube videos.  
Most are songs, except for the Sermon, "Suffering, Joy, and Hope")

All Prayers are from the *Book of Common Worship* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018) and *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition* (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Faith Alive Christian Resources and Baker Books, 2013)

**Pray:** We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the one who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your judgments have been revealed. Amen.

**Sing or Listen:** Traditional: [How Firm a Foundation](#)

Contemporary: [Amazing Love](#)

**Confess:** We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

**Be:** Sit (or stand) in silence for one minute.

**Be Assured:** Hear the good news of the gospel from the first letter of John: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. In Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

**Read God's Word: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (New Revised Standard Edition)**

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds--his name is the LORD-- be exultant before him.

Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

## **1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 (New Revised Standard Edition)**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

**Watch the Sermon:** [Suffering, Joy, and Hope](#)

**Think or Discuss:** Why do you think suffering exists in the world with a good God?

**Do:** Throughout the course of a day, reimagine each encounter or interaction you have with someone as a chance to alleviate their suffering. How does this look different from “normal”?

**Pray:** Use this time to pray, silently, at first, and then for others who need your prayers.

Finally, pray the Lord's Prayer. (Our Father...)

**Sing or Listen:** Traditional: [To God Be the Glory](#)

Contemporary: [Gathered, Scattered](#)

**Bless and Be Blessed:** May the God of Peace and the Peace of God be with you always.

AFTER WORSHIP, OUR SERVICE BEGINS...

**Serve:** (Safely) Consider making a donation to Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries (GWIM) food pantry. Particularly needed are pasta and other shelf stable foods.