

WOLCOTT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
WORSHIPPING AT HOME, JULY 4-5, 2020

(Clicking on the text underlined in blue will take you to Youtube videos.
Most are songs, except for the Sermon, "Bless Her Heart")

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: God of the covenant, in our baptism you called us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us courage like you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Sing or Listen: Traditional: [Eternal Father, Strong to Save](#)

Contemporary: [I Give You My Heart](#)

Confess: Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Be Assured: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a

people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

People of God, all of us together have received God's mercy in Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made to be a community united in faith. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Read God's Word: Psalm 145: 8-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

Read God's Word: Romans 7:15-25 (New Revised Standard Edition)

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but

the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Watch the Sermon: [Bless Her Heart](#)

Think or Discuss: When have you felt God do good things in your life despite your best efforts?

Do: Write down or think about some of the habits you wish to break, your worst impulses, and brainstorm some ideas that can help stop them as the desire to do them escalates.

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: [Leaning on the Everlasting Arms](#)

Contemporary: [This is Amazing Grace](#)

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