

*A Service of Prayer in
the Home*



Sunday church attendance is a precious part of our faith, but worship of God is possible anywhere. Jesus said to the woman at the well “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4.23-25)

When attendance at a church is not possible, it is very important to keep to the regularity of worship, both for ourselves and for the sake of the whole world. Remember, worship joins us to the whole Body of Christ- the living and the dead, and so we are doing something that is of relevance and help to others, as well as to ourselves. The world needs our worship at the moment.

The following service is suitable for use by an individual or a family for Sunday worship at home. If you are praying this service by yourself, you may wish to maintain the use of ‘we’ in the prayers to remind you that we are praying with the whole Body of Christ.

We suggest you find a space that is clear of clutter, and for people to come together for around 30 minutes. It may be helpful to have a centre piece to focus: a candle, or vase of flowers, a Bible. The readings for that Sunday (available in a lectionary, from your minister/pew bulletin should be to hand.

You may wish to have some hymns to help begin the service and create an atmosphere of worship.

***A Service of
Praise, Prayer and Proclamation***

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3.16–17

We meet in the name of God the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence may be kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Gracious God, we humbly thank you
for life and health and safety,
for freedom to work, leisure to rest,
and for all that is beautiful in creation and human life.
But, above all, we praise you for our Saviour, Jesus Christ,**

**for his death and resurrection;
for the gift of your Spirit;
and for the hope of sharing in your glory.
Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to fill our minds, hearts and spirit so that we may be open to the Word of God:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord., Amen.**

Hymns may be sung

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us
and showing the way of salvation through faith in your
Son.

We ask you now to teach and encourage us through your
word,

so that we may be ready to serve you;

for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Sentence and Collect

The readings for Sunday

A period of reflection/discussion on the readings

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

from there he will come to judge

the living and the dead.

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

A hymn may be sung

CONFESSION OF SIN

Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4.15–16

Let us pause to reflect on where we have separated ourselves from God and from one another, name those blocks and sins in our heart that God may bring us to new life through this confession.

Silence

Let us now confess our sins to almighty God.

**Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have broken your holy laws
and have left undone what we ought to have done.**

**We are sorry for our sins
and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit,
enable us to live for you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Comfort

God desires that none should perish,
but that all should turn to Christ, and live.
In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.
God pardons those who humbly repent,
and truly believe the gospel.
Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Intercessions are offered and conclude with the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers,
feeding us with your word,
and encouraging us in our meeting together.

**Take us and use us
to love and serve you and all people,
in the power of your Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

May the God of peace equip us with everything good for
doing his will, working in us what is pleasing to him, through
Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Source: A Prayer Book for Australia