At-Home Worship
For March 15th, 2020, The 3rd Sunday of Lent

As you prepare for worship, you'll want to gather just a couple things: a bible, a candle with matches or a lighter, a means of playing the podcast that goes with this worship experience, and you'll want to make sure everyone who is worshiping with you has access to this sheet, whether you've printed it out or everyone is looking on their own device. There are a few parts to this mini-service. If there are multiple people in your home, you may want to split up parts among your group.

First, make sure you find a quiet spot, preferably away from your phone. If you are using your phone to access this, you may want to put it on silent just to make sure that you can be totally present.

Play the first part of the podcast. The Vicar will tell you when to pause.

Next, light the candle, wherever you are. As you light it, pray aloud or to yourself this prayer:

Light of Christ, shine on our path, chase away all darkness, and lead us to the heart of God.

Finally, take at least a minute, if not longer, to simply sit in the quiet. Take some long, smooth breaths, and with each breath, invite the Holy Spirit to take up space in your heart. Experience the expansive peace and calm that the Spirit can bring to you, wherever you are. Allow the Spirit to convince you that you are safe, you are loved, that you are held in God’s own hand.

Pray this short confession either aloud (softly) or to yourself:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. We have sinned through our own fault, our own fault, our own grievous fault. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Immediately thereafter, have someone read aloud:

Hear and believe the Gospel: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, and that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are (I am) forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.
Having confessed your sin and been assured of your forgiveness, you are free to sing or state or meditate upon the words of the Doxology:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**
**Praise God, all creatures here below.**
**Praise God, above, you heavenly host.**
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**
**Amen.**

Either read to yourself or have someone read aloud the Gospel Lesson: John 4:5-26. You may choose to stand as we do in Church if you choose.

Now, you may start the rest of the podcast.

When the podcast is over, it is time to turn our hearts to prayer. Take some time to pray, silently or aloud as you wish. You may use whatever words you want, but please remember the following people in your prayer:

- pray for those infected.
- pray for those who are scared of infection.
- pray for doctors and nurses and all those who care for the sick.
- pray for all those who are bound to their house or hospital or nursing home and who can’t see family and friends.
- pray for all those whose school or work has been canceled and who face hardship as a result.
- pray for all those leaders of institutions who have difficult decisions to make.
- pray for those who cannot go home.
- pray for UMCU.

Finish by saying the Lord’s Prayer.

Finally, I, Vicar Derek Kubilus, authorize you to declare my final benediction and blessing using these words which are to be read aloud (even if the rest of this worship has been performed in silence):

**May the love of God the Father, the grace and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, go with you and be will you, now and always. Amen.**