



HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY

Invitation and Gathering

Consider lighting a candle to signal that worship has begun and that God is present wherever and whenever two or more gather in God's name. When we gather for worship we acknowledge that God is the one who gathers us together.

Worship live on gpch.org

Application Questions

- 1) What are some things today that are causing me to feel anxious or afraid?
Let's take a minute to say them out loud.
- 2) What are some things today that I feel hopeful about? What are sources of joy or encouragement? Let's speak those truths aloud as well. Here are three verses in the Bible that talk about fear. Have someone read each of them out loud:
 - *2 Timothy 1:7*— For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
 - *Psalm 56:3*—When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
 - *Psalm 23:4*—Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 3) Do any of those verses feel meaningful to you today? Are there others that come to mind?

Call to Prayer

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Prayer

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people.
You have called us to be the church,
to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world.
Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active,
isolated than involved, callous than compassionate,
obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving.
Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.
Remove the obstacles preventing us
from being your representatives to a broken world.
Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your spirit in us,
as we come before you in silence now ...

Brief time of silence

Prayers of the People

Father, most gracious, filled with mercy and never-ending love, hear our prayers for the church and the world as we come before you now ...

(Speak aloud your prayers to God, who is with you and hears you)

—continued—

And now let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray saying,

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen.**

Declaration of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question and Answer #1

Question: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Answer: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul,
in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.
Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly
willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Sending

*We do not worship for ourselves alone, but for the sake of the world. God
gathers us, speaks to us, and feeds us so that we might be formed into people
who look and act like Jesus in our everyday lives.*

Benediction

God go before you to lead you,
God go behind you to protect you,
God go beneath you to support you,
God go beside you to befriend you.
Do not be afraid.
May the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you.
Do not be afraid.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Activity:

Take some time to select a verse or two from the Bible that reminds you that you don't have to be afraid (hint: this is repeated 365 times in God's word!). Stick it to the refrigerator or the bathroom mirror this week to help you remember that we serve a God of hope.

Dig Deeper:

Listed below are scripture references that remind us: Do not be afraid!
Deuteronomy 31:6, 22; Isaiah 41:10; Isaiah 41:13; Isaiah 43:1; Psalm 23:4;
Psalm 27:1; Joshua 1:9; 2 Timothy 1:7; John 14:27; Matthew 10:28;
1 John 4:18; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 56:3; Luke 12:32;
1 Chronicles 28:20; Hebrews 13:6; Romans 8:15, 38-39; Zephaniah 3:17