



WORSHIP GUIDE

St. John's United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 29, 2021

A SERVICE OF PRAYER & REFLECTION IN TIMES OF STORMS

GATHER

If you have a candle, bring it in front of you and light it to set apart this time and space for worship.

You are the light of the world, a city on a hill, a candle in the dark.

We gather as we are and where we are to worship you, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. +

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, when the waters rage and foam,

Still the storms and grant us your peace.

When the gift of creation becomes burden,

Still the storms and grant us your peace.

When our fears threaten to overtake us,

Still the storms and grant us your peace.

Speak your word to the wind and to the sea,

Fill us with faith.

Show us your care in the service of others,

Fill us with compassion.

Make the joy of your peace overflow in our lives,

Fill us with hope.

PSALM 46

Read the Psalm aloud, even if you're by yourself.

*If you're with a group, choose a leader to read the odd verses,
and the rest of the group can respond with the even verses.*

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- 3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
10 'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

GOSPEL

Have one person read the text aloud.

Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus Stills a Storm

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.'³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.³⁷ A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?'³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.⁴⁰ He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SILENCE

In this moment, we leave space for God's spirit to speak and move in us.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Together, we pray for our world, the church, and all those in need...

Gracious God, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. In anticipation of Hurricane Ida reveal your presence to those across Louisiana and along the coast so that all may know your healing, hope, and love. As one community on earth bound together by your grace, inspire us to pray, serve, and help all those who suffer.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of earth and air, water and fire, height and depth, we pray for those who work in danger, who rush in to bring hope and help and comfort when others flee to safety, whose mission is to seek and save, serve and protect, and whose presence embodies the protection of the Good Shepherd. Give them caution and concern for one another, so that in safety they may do what must be done, under your watchful eye. Support them in their courage and dedication that they may continue to save lives, ease pain, and mend the torn fabric of lives and social order.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God with us, make us ready to put our prayer into action and to embody your care to one another. In days, weeks, and months to come, awaken us to the needs of our neighbor near and far and unite us to be a sign of your hope. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear how we will be a sign of Your healing.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of all creation, when our news feed seems to only speak of our own immediate worry, we remember those in need of prayer beyond us – the sick, the lonely, the heartbroken, the hungry, and those living in fear. We pray especially for those whose names we speak aloud or hold in our hearts now....

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We entrust all these prayers to you, those spoken aloud and held in the silence of our hearts. We trust in your promise to hear us, to intercede for us even when we don't know what to say, and to abide with us no matter what. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our salvation and hope, who taught us to pray, saying: **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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

BLESSING + SENDING

O Lord, now let your servants depart in peace,
according to your gracious word.

**Our eyes have seen the glory of salvation
prepared for all the people of the world.**

Now may the Lord bless you and keep you
and make his face to shine upon you;

**and may God lift his countenance upon you
and give you blessed peace for now and evermore. Amen. +**

If you lit a candle, blow it out.

If you are gathered with others at home, feel free to use everyday materials like oil or water to bless each other with words of encouragement, peace, and offer the sign of the cross on your forehead or wrists.

Check on someone you love today.

Gifts can be made online at stjohnsbr.org/give.