

What about worship when we can't go to "church"?

Start by thinking about what is important to you in worship, especially in our congregation and building. And what is important for us right now, in this time of anxiety, but also preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Below, please find some thoughts and suggestions to be in worship together in this season.

1. We go to worship for the beauty and set apart quality of our worship spaces, both the Chapel and the Sanctuary.
  - The Chapel is open and available for you during office hours all week, 8:00-3:30, and can be open by request if you need a prayer space.
  - Create a quiet space for prayer at home with a candle, reading materials, flowers, etc.
  - Take time to be outside in the spring weather; there are signs of resurrection all around. Worship and be thankful in God's sanctuary of the world.
  - Continue to set aside your normal Sunday worship time to focus on God.
  
2. We go to worship to share together in the Word from the Lord, heard in our scriptures, messages, prayers, and music.
  - For the next few weeks, the weekly sermon will be available in manuscript form for you to read alone or even with family or friends.
  - Our devotional by email will be sent out every day, sometimes just with scripture, sometimes with devotional thoughts. If you would like to contribute a devotional item, send it in!
  - There are opportunities to watch worship in other places, not only the televised big names, but streaming from United Methodist Churches here in our conference. We will send out a list that you might consider sampling in the next couple of weeks, or on other occasions when you are unable to come to Gay Street.
  - Keep up with your own devotional reading in the Bible, using devotional materials, and more. Listen to music, talk with friends if not face to face by phone or electronically to share what God is doing.
  
3. We go to worship for the people we know and love, and to serve each other and the world through our prayers and praise.
  - Using the edevotionals, a church directory, or your own memory, bring each other to mind in regular prayer.
  - "Adopt" one or two people during this time to especially pray for and connect with: those in care facilities who can have no visitors, others homebound, our students, etc. Contact the office for suggestions, phone numbers and addresses so that you can let people know you are praying for and with them.
  - Use this time to increase prayer opportunities and practices: say grace at every meal, pray before sleep, use the Psalms for daily prayer, etc.