

Worship At Home

July 3, 2022

As the weather changes and rest time is upon us this day...as preparation for celebrations...as gatherings begin...as travel may be taking place...as your regular routine continues...however you engage your weekend, enjoy worshipping on your own or with others. Below are options for at home worship on Sunday July 3rd. Remember, simply reading scripture, praying, and offering a blessing is a wonderful way to worship.

Worship Option 1: Courtesy of Milestones Ministry, Taking Faith Home

Scripture:

Jeremiah 29:4-14 God has a plan for the people
Psalm 33:8-22 Sing praises to the Lord Galatians
6:1-10 Bear one another's burdens
Mark 12:13-17 Give to God what is God's

Prayer for Independence Day: Almighty God, help us to use our freedom with good courage to bear one another's burdens and to love all people for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the fruited plains, for amber waves of grain, for the abundant seas, and for all the ways you bless this country with ample food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give: May God set you free to love and serve others through Christ our Lord.

HYMN: Lift Every Voice and Sing

CARING CONVERSATIONS:

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections: Where is your favorite place to visit in the United States? Why? What do the words "to form a more perfect union" from the preamble of the Constitution of the United States mean to you ?

DEVOTIONS:

Read: Galatians 6:1-10. The Fourth of July offers a time to celebrate freedom and independence from oppressive powers. The words in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal," is an ideal we should strive for in this life. The framers of the U.S. Constitution acknowledge this with the goal "to form a more perfect Union," expressing the desire to move closer to the ideal. This ideal includes men and women from all races, cultures, and backgrounds. Words spoken by the Apostle Paul "let us not grow weary in doing what is right" (v. 9) and, "let us work for the good of all" (v. 10), also address these ideals and desires. To celebrate American independence creates a special opportunity to live the Christian faith by bearing each other's burdens, and, thereby, fulfilling the law of Christ, the law of love. As we celebrate the Fourth of July and the freedoms we have, it is good to also celebrate the Christian faith and the freedom to work for the good of all people. That is a day worth celebrating.

Discuss: In what ways can freedom in Christ play a role in guiding freedom in our country?

Pray: Liberating God, lead us with your compassion for all as we seek your blessings of justice and mercy for our country and world through Jesus Christ the one who sets us free. Amen.

SERVICE:

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Bible Readings and theme for this day, how might you use your freedom in Christ to work for the good of all people?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Colorful fireworks in the night sky and sparklers and fireworks on the ground are popular ways to celebrate Independence Day. The church uses candles to remember the light of Christ that takes away the darkness of human brokenness. This Fourth of July, use a sparkler or candle to honor the true light that lights the world. Let it be a reminder of how we can use our freedom in Christ for the good of all. As you light the candle or sparkler, say: "Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome."

**Worship option 2:
Outdoor Prayer Stations
Courtesy of Vibrant Faith at Home**

For the prayer stations:

- Visit the Faith Lutheran Church website www.faithseattle.org or
- Check the weekly email for a link, or
- Pick one up in the Narthex

Choose the stations that work best!