

PAPER CHURCH

Spaces

Sunday 5 July 2020

Some Tips

Our hope is that this is a resource that will help us all to engage meaningfully with God's word for us and invite an open and experimental sense of worship today. Use it in a way that feels comfortable and helpful to you. Here are a couple of suggestions that might help the process.

Get prepared for worship

Have your Bible close by, perhaps set up some favourite music to listen to, find some food and drink to have during communion. It doesn't have to be bread and grape juice; it could be whatever is available (tea and a biscuit) to use in this symbolic time.


Get into a 'sacred' space

When we are not physically in a dedicated worship space (like a church building), it is important to mentally and spiritually shift into a sense of worship.

Be intentional. Sit somewhere where you feel receptive and responsive to God (e.g. a cosy chair or outside in the garden). Have some visual representation of God (perhaps a small cross, your Bible, a symbol or image). Start with a few moments of silence and deep breathing.

Consider your environment

Consider your environment and what will work for you. If you have others in your house (house-mates/family), consider sharing this time with them, each reading or participating as appropriate. You might simply reflect individually, in your own time and space. Afterwards, you might connect with others through technology to share your reflections, or an encouragement, with them.



Contemplative spaces

Introduction

Julia Fullerton, Matthew Moore, Darren Evans and Brendan Petty

This week's worship resource is different to the usual pattern. It is provided as a series of short contemplative videos you can watch online, each with an audio 'soundscape' and some accompanying visuals, Scriptures and questions. It is, therefore, difficult to capture the experience into written form, so Paper Church this week has some of the prompts from these videos for you to use which we hope will be helpful for you. You can go through each of the headings in whatever order you like; in one day or across several days.

Explore creative ways to engage with these spaces – think about a different location you could be for each, consider what sounds you might hear, and how you can expose yourself to an environment where you might encounter God in a fresh or unexpected way.

Song of the Magpie

There is much noise and many voices in our world today.

What can you hear?

What voices are competing in your life at the moment?

Which voices bring you life?

What does your voice add to the many other voices in your world?

In what ways do you hear God?

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27 NIV

Winter Storm

We all have moments when our lives seem stormy and unsettled.

Can you hear the rain? Can you feel the cold? Can you sense the depth of the winter season?

What storms are you aware of ...

- Within you?
- Within Australia?
- Within the World?

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14 NIV

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Are We There Yet?

You might like to find a space where you can watch people passing by – on foot, in car or train.

Our lives are never static ... we are always travelling somewhere, we are always being shaped and formed.

What direction is your life taking right now?

What pace are you travelling at?

Where is God calling you?

Who are you travelling with?

Are you there yet?

This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.

Jeremiah 6:16 NIV

Seasons

We tend to live our lives seasonally.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Think of the warmth of the summer sun as it sets over the water.

Think of the rich colours and softness of autumn.

Think of the stillness and beauty of a cold winter.

Think of the spontaneity of life bursting all around in spring.

Which season are you in right now?

What are the joys of this season? Give thanks to God, Creator of all.

What are the difficulties and griefs? Lean into God, who knows your pain.

What is unexpected? Have a chuckle with God.

Communion

Have some food and drink prepared for this time.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."

Luke 22:7-14

And after supper he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Luke 22:19-20 NIV

What does your preparation for communion look like? How do you make space to really prepare?

Please share in your version of communion.

Song: Still

Hide me now
Under Your wings
Cover me
Within Your mighty hand

When the oceans rise
And thunders roar
I will soar with You
Above the storm
Father You are King
Over the flood
I will be still and know
You are God

Find rest my soul
In Christ alone
Know His power
In quietness and trust

CCLI Song # 3940963
Reuben Morgan
© 2002 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia
CCLI Licence # 30581

Connect cards online

Click this link or enter it into your web browser rngwd.com/connect.

We love to know that you have been able to connect through worship today. Please click on the link (or enter it into your web browser) to our online connect cards letting us know which ways you have been able to worship, and if you want to let us know how we can praying with you.

Thank you!