

WORSHIP FROM HOME

guidelines

As we each strive to care for one another by keeping social distance, one of the unintended consequences is the inability to come together physically for worship. However, technology has advanced in ways that allow us to still gather together as a community of faith to worship, pray, praise, and grow in our faith. We want to engage in actively worshipping together. We want this experience to be fulfilling and engaging for you and your family. Therefore, we are crafting the experience to be interactional for your family.

Here is what we would like you to do:

- Establish an altar in the space where you are worshipping. Use the mantle under the TV or get a TV tray or small table and put it where it is central to the space in which you are worshipping.
 - Place a candle or two on your home altar. Then place something that reminds you that God Himself is present when you worship. It could include a special cross, a picture of Jesus, or other spiritually important items.
 - Light the candle at the beginning of your worship time to symbolize that God is present in this time and space to meet with you in worship. If you have children who are old enough, allow them to help light and extinguish the candle.
 - This is to remind you throughout your time of worship that God is present wherever you are worshipping and allows you to focus on Him rather than the screen from which you are following along in worship.
- Stand and sit at the appropriate times throughout the service. We stand when we are addressing God or God is addressing us directly in worship. Confession and absolution, the Gospel reading, and prayer are some of these times when we stand because we are in are speaking with the King of kings directly in those moments and He deserves our respect.
- There will be times built into the service for you to engage with your family. The pastor will pause for a few moments or minutes to allow you to discuss something specific or add your own petitions to the prayers as a family. If you are worshipping alone use the time for reflection and talk to God about it or bring a journal and record your thoughts.
- Sing the hymns...out loud! God loves the joyful noise we make singing. Singing lifts the spirit and engages us emotionally. Don't be afraid to sing out.
- Giving from home. There are two options for giving your offering while we worship online. The first is on Realm at onrealm.org/immanuelbatavia/give/onlineworship. This is a public link, so everyone can make a gift without logging in. The second is to text this symbol \$ and the amount of your gift to 630 528 0328. You will then receive a link to provide card information and complete the process.

This may feel a little awkward at first, but we believe it can be an uplifting experience if you and your family strive to engage in the experience. If you have children at home of any age, you will never have a more powerful opportunity to demonstrate the importance of worship in your family. Your desire to take this time seriously and model your love for God in worship will make a lasting impact on your children!



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