

“Since we can’t be together this Sunday—between hurricane Ian, evacuations, power outages, water cut-offs and all the turmoil—we’ll miss being together in worship at Christ Church. Here’s a simple order of worship that you may use, in the comforting realization that many of your friends and fellow worshippers are using it too. We may be prevented from coming together—but only physically!

Let us worship together in spirit though physically apart.” - Dr. Pritchard

Call to worship: Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult

Prayer

O God, light of the hearts that see you,
life of the souls that love you,
strength of the thoughts that seek you:
to turn from you is to fall,
to turn to you is to rise,
to abide in you is to stand fast forever.
Although we are unworthy to approach you,
or to ask anything at all of you,
grant us your grace and blessing
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

Scripture: Psalm 19 – *peace in the midst of a storm*

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Almighty and gracious God, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble, so we pray in faith today for a world troubled by many things, by natural disaster and human strife, by pain and sorrow

Creator God, it is you who has made us and given us this good earth as our home; and yet we take so much for granted and forget our dependence on you.

We are often careless before the wonder of creation, complacent in our use of its resources, and indifferent to a world made vulnerable to pollution and neglect.

Humbled by the force of nature and acknowledging our vulnerability and dependence on you, we pray for the victims of the hurricane here in this country and in other lands; all who have been traumatized and injured, all who have lost loved ones. Be present with your healing grace and sustaining love.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones; for those who have lost homes or other possessions; we pray for all who seek to offer help in any way

We pray for the world's response: Be active to move the hearts of people to generous assistance. We give to your care all those who have been involved in rescuing people: all first responders and emergency workers. Bless every caring organization as people minister to others in need. Sustain them through this time of stress and need.

Be present with your Spirit's power and compassion.

Make us grateful for creation's bounty, and humble before creation's power. Help us see that nature depends on us as much as we depend on nature. Help us to use the gifts you give to heal the hurts of others and relieve their pain.

And in our lives, help us, we pray, appreciate the good things we enjoy and all to readily take for granted.

And so in humility and gratitude, we thank you, Lord, for your blessing in our lives, especially the gifts you lavish upon us: the gifts of family, friends, our home and possessions. Thank you for the pleasing pattern of our lives and the many gifts that grace and upbuild us. Most of all we praise you for the love in which you hold us which has reached us through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, in your deep love for all the world, keep your children in your care and lead us safely in your love, until at the last we gather with all your people in the glory of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's prayer:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever. Amen

Concluding prayer of trust and commitment:

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done; then Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and fellowship in the Holy Spirit be with us and with all for whom we pray, his day and forever, amen..

Let us worship together in spirit though physically apart: