

## Preparing Your Family for Virtual Worship

For some this change in worship style will be easy for others it may be more difficult. While still being able to hear and see the words and the leaders, what is missing is the corporal physical and emotional experience of being in the same room with many other worshippers. It is that corporate worship which has been part of Christian gatherings since the early house churches of the first century. We are now forced back into our houses not by persecution but by COVID-19. The difference is that no more than one family can be in the house at a time. Paul writes to the Romans, nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus. As long as nothing can separate us from that love, we are moved to worship our loving Lord no matter what the circumstances. Here are some steps to help your family worship virtually.

- ❖ *Prepare your attitude toward virtual worship*
  - Consider virtual worship as true worship.
  - Treat it as you would worshipping in our sanctuary.
  - Expect from yourself and from your children the same reverence.
- ❖ *Prepare a space for worship in your home*
  - Somewhere where all can sit and see the monitor.
  - Test the electronics to make certain it all works.
  - Create a home worship bag for your youngest of worshippers.
- ❖ *Prepare yourselves*
  - Get up, get dressed, eat breakfast as you would any other Sunday.
  - Take a walk. This will get wiggles out of children, get brain cells firing, and oxygen in your body. All of these will improve focus.
  - Go to the bathroom.
  - Enter the prepared worship space in your home.
- ❖ *Worship Virtually*
  - As you enter worship, think about and envision all the other church members who are sitting in their homes listening to this same service. This will create a spirit of unity even though not together.
  - Engage children by asking, "Do you think Mrs. .... is worshipping today? I wonder what her worship space looks like."
  - Listen – Participate – Pray – Sing just as you would in the sanctuary.
  - Young children can bring a stuffed animal and show it how to worship.
  - As a family you can pass the peace.
- ❖ *Fellowship after Worship*
  - Plan lunch or snack to follow directly after virtual worship.
  - Talk about the message, hymns, and worship experience.
  - Call someone from the church and talk about the message.
  - Make a card to mail to someone.

See you in worship – well maybe not see you -- but through the Spirit which binds I will know you are there worshipping with me.

Blessings,  
Lynne Pabst  
Director of Christian Education