



2015 Family Week Worship Liturgy

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This liturgy was written to be used in conjunction with **Family Week** as a way to introduce the week's activities during worship. The liturgy can also be used by congregations not observing **Family Week** as a way to honor the families in your congregation.

Call to Worship

We come to you now, Holy One. We know that we are always in your presence, every moment of every day, when we are gathered in the church or at home. But right now we are opening our hearts and minds to you, focusing on our connection with you and with each other. Help us feel your presence in this time of worship. Amen

Call to Confession

When we confess, we admit to you things you already know. We do this knowing you are faithful to forgive us when we ask. Hear our prayers, Lord.

Prayer of Confession

(Two options are offered for you to choose from. Option one is to be used as a unison prayer. Option two is to be read as a responsive litany.)

Option One:

Nothing we have done or failed to do, nothing we have thought or ignored - nothing has escaped your notice, God. We don't always treat our family with the love you have given us. We don't always show respect to each other or even to ourselves. We want to be a loving family. We want to show each other and the rest of the world the kind of love you have given us. Forgive us when we fail. And help us forgive ourselves as you forgive us. Help us to do better following the example of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Option Two:

Leader: Nothing we have done or failed to do, nothing we have thought or ignored, nothing has escaped your notice, God.

All: **We don't always treat our family with the love you have given us.**

Leader: We don't always show respect to each other or even to ourselves.

All: **We want to be a loving family.**

Leader: We want to show each other and the rest of the world the kind of love you have given us.

All: **Forgive us when we fail.**

Leader: And help us forgive ourselves as you forgive us.

All: **Help us to do better following the example of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen**

Assurance of Forgiveness

"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins." (1 John 1:9)
Friends, hear the Good News. We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

I have a question for you. What does the word "worship" mean?

(Encourage and accept all answers offered, even if you can only say "thank you for adding that idea." If necessary, add to the group's definition something about spending time with God, thinking about God, learning to love God more, letting God know we're glad to be together in God's presence, if these thoughts are not shared by the children.)

Here's another question. Where do we worship? *(Allow answers)*

Is the sanctuary the only place we can worship? *(No – we can worship in lots of places.)*

Can we worship at home? In the backyard? At the park? In the grocery store?
(Yes)

How can we worship in these places? (*bedtime prayers, silent prayer, noticing God's creation, thanking God for delicious and nutritious food*)

Those are good ideas about worship. This week is **Family Week**, and during this week we'll be thinking a lot about ways to worship, not only in God's House, but at Our House and anywhere else we are with others who love God.

Let's pray. Loving God, we know you are always with us and thinking about us and caring about us. Help us love other people just as much as we love you. Amen

(Hand out the *From God's House to Our House* daily devotion website information - www.cpdmt.wordpress.com. At this site, families can read the daily devotion or print a copy of the daily devotion.)

Charge and Benediction

We have spent this time focused on God and our relationship with God and with the whole family of God. Now we go from this place to live into being that family, to love every member of that big family just as we love the members of our household. Remember who you are: part of the family of God. Love with all your heart and all of your life. May God, who is the head of our big family, bless you as you do! Amen