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# Family Church *At Home*

A guide for praying, worshipping,  
& reflecting as a family



St. Paul's Anglican Church  
Hampton, NB

# FAMILY CHURCH - AT HOME

## THE FAMILY GATHERS

### CANDLE LIGHTING:

*A candle can be safely placed near or at the centre of the gathering, and before it is lit someone may read the following:*

**Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

(John 8:12)

*The candle can then be safely lit as the family repeats the following, either said or sung,*

**Jesus is the light of the world;  
the light that can never be put out.  
Jesus is the light of the world;  
the light of life is with us now.**

### GATHERING PRAYER:

*This can be said as a 'repeat-after-me' prayer, read together, or read by one person as the others pray silently.*

**Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### GATHERING PRAISE:

*This can be a worship song that your family listens to and/or sings together.*

### **BIBLE READING:**

*Readings from the Bible will be selected and posted on the St. Paul's website ([stpaulshampton.ca/family-church/](http://stpaulshampton.ca/family-church/)) each week, but can also be chosen by the family. The reading can be done by one person or several, and could be done multiple times (we recommend twice, by different people).*

### **VIDEO:**

*This may be a video telling of the story or one that explores a theme that is in the reading, or may be a teaching with object lessons about themes in the reading. Links to videos will be posted on the St. Paul's website.*

### **OPTIONAL REFLECTION ACTIVITY:**

*This should be a very simple activity (a colouring sheet, drawing activity, comic strip) that participants can do as they reflect on the readings and participate in the prayers. Ideally it should be related to the day's topic or Bible passage.*

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

- What do you find interesting in the reading?
- What did you notice?
- What questions do you have about it?
- How could it apply to our lives? / What does it say to us today?

## THE FAMILY RESPONDS TO GOD'S WORD

*All, some, or even just one of the following responses can be used by the family to respond to the reading and their reflection on the passage.*

### THE APOSTLES' CREED:

*This can be read in unison or as a 'repeat-after-me' creed, or one person may read it on behalf of the group.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYER:

***Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name... Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." (John 16:23,24)***

**Trusting in this promise and praying in Jesus name, let us pray to the Lord, for ourselves, for our neighbours and for the world, saying "In Jesus' name; hear us Lord."**

*The following is adapted from the 'Home Prayers' found in the Book of Alternative Services p.687-697.*

**Loving God, we thank you for your many gifts to us.**

***If anyone would like to say out loud something that they are thankful for, they can do that now.***

...

**We thank you Lord, for the love which brings us together, for the earth which provides for our needs, and for the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ.**

**In Jesus' name;**

**Hear us Lord.**

**We pray to you Lord, for our selves and for our families.**

***If anyone would like say out loud what they need from God, they can do that now.***

...

**Give us the grace to grow in your love.**

**In Jesus' name;**

**Hear us Lord.**

**We pray to you for our neighbours in need, for the sick and the lonely, for the hurt and the frightened, and for those struggling to find hope.**

***If anyone would like to name someone who they know needs God's help, they can do that now.***

...

**Surround us and all our neighbours with your love and care**

**In Jesus' name;**

**Hear us Lord.**

**We pray to you Lord for our world, for all its cares and needs.**

***If anyone would like to name a particular place or situation in the world that needs God's help, they can do that now.***

...

**Come quickly Lord, and make all things new.**

**In Jesus' name;**

**Hear us Lord. Amen.**

**CONFESSION:**

**“If we claim that we have no sin and never do anything wrong, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to [God], he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all wickedness.” (1John 1:8-9)**

*As we continue to pray, let’s remember the things we have done that we know we shouldn’t have done, and the things that we haven’t done that we know we should have done, and ask God to show us his forgiveness and grace.*

**Most merciful Father,  
forgive us our sins against you  
and against each other.  
Strengthen us in our weakness,  
so that we can live in your way of love,  
for the sake of Jesus your Son.  
Amen.**

**PRAISE:**

*Sing a praise song or simple hymn together, or sing along with a praise song or hymn on YouTube.*

**OFFERINGS:**

*Take a small bowl or basket and place it at the centre of the gathering. In the bowl or basket, place your family’s church offering and/or a financial donation to an organization or ministry that you feel called to support.*

*You could also write on a piece of paper a pledge to bless a friend or neighbour in some way this week and place that in your offering bowl.*

*After everyone has made their offering, offer the following prayer together as a ‘repeat-after-me’ prayer, or have one person read it on behalf of everyone.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER:**

**Every good and perfect gift  
comes from You, the Father of light. (*James 1:17*)**

**Everything in heaven and earth  
belongs to you, O God. (*1Chronicles 29:11*)**

**Everything we have comes from You,  
and everything we give; we give back to You.  
(*1Chronicles 29:14*)**

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

*This can be read together, said as a 'repeat-after-me' prayer, or read by one person on behalf of everyone.*

***Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray the way  
Jesus taught us:***

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*Finish your time of worship with these words of blessing. Once again, they can be read together, or in 'repeat-after-me' style, or with different people taking turns reading each section.*

***Jesus said***

**“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”** (John 20:21)

**“And look: I am with you, every single day, to the very end of the age.”** (Matthew. 28:20)

***Let's bless one another as we say,***

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen.**