

Heart of The Matter... Worship Series... Join us digitally!

This Sunday, April 22 at our 10:30am ONE worship we invite you to join us as we embark on a new worship series. Our Great Plains Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr will bring the message this week for all of Nebraska and Kansas. Our series will continue through Pentecost with Pastor Jo Ellen bringing the messages and many voices bringing music, scripture, and readings. If you would like to volunteer (ahead of time on video) we invite you to connect with Wess. To prepare for this time together at home, we share the unique opportunity to engage in worship in ways which deepen our relationships across generations.

Creating a Worship Space

Gathering around a computer or television can feel less than holy. These spaces are usually for work time or relaxing time. In order to make this an intentionally sacred space, here are a few ideas:

- Gather at your kitchen or dining table with a laptop or tablet if you can. This allows you to participate with one another with space for your food and for you to write and color.
- If you are unable to gather at a larger table, use a smaller, dedicated surface.
- In the middle of your table, place a candle, a bible, and any other small item that helps to center you. You could include a small bowl of water to remind you of the waters of your baptism, or sprigs of greenery to connect you with creation.
- During this time when we are not able to worship in our church sanctuaries, we encourage you to keep this home sanctuary space set up throughout this time to remind you of God's constant presence in our lives.

Making a Cross

Taking time in nature and collecting sticks to make a cross for your worship space at home is fairly simple. Locate and tie the sticks together with twine or yarn – whatever you have on hand – and place it in your worship space.

Rocks We Carry

Collect a few rocks – one for each person – that are small enough to fit in your hand and big enough to feel some weight. Gather with your family in your home worship space in a circle. Have each person start by holding a rock, and go around the circle naming the hard, heavy things they are carrying right now. This could be worry about a loved one, fear of getting sick, loneliness without seeing friends, difficulty with school or work at a distance. Encourage and model naming specific things while holding and looking at your rock. When everyone has shared, place your rocks in the middle of the circle, and pray together:

“God we carry hard, heavy things, but we know we do not carry them alone because you are with us. Just like the rock that was rolled away from Jesus’ tomb, you are rolling away things from our lives to bring new life. Help us know you are bringing hope and joy and new possibilities. Amen.”

Rocks Covered in Hope

Sometime after you have shared in the “Rocks we Carry” activity together, you can take these rocks – now symbols of the hard things – and cover them in hope. Wash the rocks with soap and water, and dry them thoroughly. Using acrylic paint, each person can paint their rock with hearts. You could also just use Sharpies if you don't have access to paint.