***Preparing for Worship***

A guitar, after much use and certainly after a period of being idle, needs to be tuned in order for it to be played in the manner for which it was created. We too, as human beings take some tuning in order to prepare our hearts for worship. Click to download a few practices that may bless your worship experience in your homes during this COVID-19 pandemic.

**A. Create a sacred space.**

Our hearts have been loving, desiring, fearing and working in all kinds of directions during the week. Having a sacred space helps our hearts to recalibrate. Here are some suggestions.

1. Create a family altar out of a coffee table, end table, or small stool.
2. Place the computer used to stream the service in an appropriate area close to your altar (or move the altar close to your TV or computer!)
3. Place a piece of fabric, hand towel or placemat on it as an altar cloth.
4. Place a candle in the middle of the fabric.
5. Assemble the elements for communion (bread, wine, juice).
6. Place a bible on your family altar space.

**B. Center your heart.**

Before our worship service begins, all of us can prepare our hearts for worship.

1. Turn off our cellphones.
2. Print up the order of service.
3. Light the candle.
4. Read a Psalm such as Psalm 29, 99, 100 or 122.

**C. Pray a centering prayer.**

Few things make it harder to fully engage in worship than arriving just on time or late. Arriving early gives us plenty of time to find a place to sit, and then center our hearts through the word and prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the blessing of worship—for the joy of gathering with brothers and sisters in Christ. Prepare my heart and mind to receive your Word. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you my God, my Rock and my Redeemer. In the name of Jesus. Amen