**Blackburn’s Chapel Home Worship**

**Week of 3/16/2020**

**Gathering prayer –**

Heavenly Father, we come to you as a scattered community. We pray that in the unknown of the coming days and weeks you will draw us near, in Spirit, by your grace. In you we find peace in the storm, a sure foundation in the shifting world we live in. Show us the way through this season as we look to the time when we can look back and give thanks for the blessings in the difficulty. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**Scripture – Psalm 42**

**Reflection Questions**

1. What verse closely aligns with where you are right now? Which part of the psalmist’s cry sounds like your own thoughts? The psalmists speak to every emotion we experience ourselves on a daily basis.
2. Look at the two repeating sections that begin, “Why are you cast down…” The psalmist goes from downcast to looking forward in hope. Reflect on the ways you’ve been bouncing back and forth between fear and hope (or if you haven’t, share the ways God has been keeping you steady).
3. Like the psalmist, we often see God working in strange places. Share one place this week you’ve seen God at work that most surprised you.

**Scripture – Exodus 20:8-11**

God calls into seasons of rest. He goes so far as to prescribe a day of rest every week – a day to put aside all those things that keep us busy and preoccupied during the week. They’re not bad in and of themselves; but we have to be intentional about setting them aside for a period and reorienting towards God.

**Reflection Question**

1. Most likely, you’ll have some time free over the next few weeks that you weren’t planning on. What are some fruitful practices you can incorporate into your day that can help you draw closer to God?
2. Sabbath is key to God’s creation, but we’ve moved away from the practice in our culture. What does it mean that God made the Sabbath holy? What does that tell us about rest and our life as God’s children?

**Worship in Song**

Audrey Assad – “Nothing to Fear”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cDyS5hWmHM>

**Closing prayer – from the Canticle of Zechariah (Luke 1:78-79)**

God, we’re so thankful for your presence in our lives and our world. It is by your tender compassion that the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.