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# WORSHIP @ HOME

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## WHAT DOES YOUR SPRING WARDROBE LOOK LIKE? INTRODUCTION

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### Introduction to this new 'Worship@Home' series

Easter is not just one day, it is a season. In the Church calendar it is a period of 50 days spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. It is a time for us to think about the birth of the Church and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. After experiencing the darkness of the events of Holy Week, we are now invited to *live* in the light of resurrection hope and share this light with others. In our homes, this is a perfect time to consider how we can better live our lives as faithful disciples of Christ. In this new 'Worship@Home' series, we consider 'putting on' the clothes of Christ. Do not worry, this will not involve a costly online shopping experience, nor will there be a red carpet event where, as an actor, you may be asked 'Who are you wearing?' to find out the designer of your outfit. Instead, clothing imagery from the New Testament will be used to describe and explore our relationship with God. Colossians 3:12-14 provides a vivid portrayal of what it means to 'put on' godly characteristics so that we are a reflection of Him in this world:

*'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.'*

The Message version of the Bible is given below, which further links the Easter story to the way we are called to live our lives:

'So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.'

Both offer an insight into our relationship with God rooted in our status of being chosen and loved by Him. These are the characteristics that shine through us as a result of a deepening relationship with God.

In summary, every believer 'puts on' Christ (Romans 13:13-14) by virtue of trusting who Jesus is and what he did for us. However, we are also called to put on the characteristics and virtues that reflect our identity as children of God. At the extraordinary time that we are in, we all need to feel loved and cared for. We must challenge ourselves, despite social distancing, uncertainty and our fears, to reach out and connect to others. This requires a deeper reflection on our spiritual wardrobe and the strength of our discipleship. Let God be the designer and pick your wardrobe for you this Spring!