

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, PRESBYTERY OF EAST TENNESSEE

WORSHIP POSSIBILITIES FOR WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

MARCH 7, 2014

Today we join with Christians around the world, laying aside everything that would claim our thoughts and spirit and enter into a time of focused and fervent prayer coming before our Lord with praise, confession, thanks and requests.

Do you recall that wonderful song – *Standing in the need of prayer?* “Not my brother, not my sister but it is me oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer.” Once we recognize that we need prayer; life is changed and we are on the road to a relationship with God.

As you spend time corporately or alone today, take time to consider the facets of prayer:

Praise

We praise God not because of what he does but because of who he is. He is worthy of praise.

Psalm 150

“¹ Praise the Lord.^[a]

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,

⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Spend time praising God – He deserves our praise.

Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful we adore thee* (May be read or sung) (add page number)

Confession

“All have sinned” and we need to acknowledge our sins and call them out to God and *ask for His forgiveness, accept the forgiveness and move on with renewed commitment and vigor.*

Psalm 61: 1-4

“Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.

² From the ends of the earth I call to you,
I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

³ For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the foe.

⁴ I long to dwell in your tent forever.”

Let us confess our sins to God.

Hymn: *Just as I am* (May be read or sung) (add page number)

Thanksgiving

“Every good and perfect gift comes from above” – It is pleasurable to God to give us good gifts and His gifts are too many to name or mention. Be thankful for the beauty of the earth, life and the privilege of knowing and serving God.

Psalm 100

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

³ Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his^[a];
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

God is gracious and generous with his children. Thank God for all he has done for us.

Hymn: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* (May be read or sung) (add page number)

Supplication

We pray for others and we pray for ourselves. Needs are many and varied and God's ear is inclined to the voice of his children. He stands ready to listen and answer our prayers.

Psalm 71

¹ In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
² In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;
turn your ear to me and save me.
³ Be my rock of refuge,
to which I can always go;
give the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.
⁵ For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord,
my confidence since my youth.
⁶ From birth I have relied on you;
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.
I will ever praise you.
⁷ I have become a sign to many;
you are my strong refuge.
⁸ My mouth is filled with your praise,
declaring your splendor all day long."

Lift up those who need salvation, healing, strength or renewal of life, spirit, body or mind.

Hymn: *Sweet Hour of Prayer* (May be read or sung) (add page number)

Alternative or additional prayer focuses:

(We were introduced to these avenues for prayer at the Synod Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Elizabethtown, Ky. in a class led by Cheri Harper)

Pray the globe – place a globe in the view of the participants and remember that God made the heavens and the earth and it all belongs to Him.

Psalm 24: 1-2

¹ The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
² for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters."

Pray for:

Peace;

Basic needs of the people of earth - food, shelter, clothing;

Prudent use of the earth and its resources;

Pray for those who daily put their lives on the line to insure the safety of others, police, fire crews, EMTS, international peacekeepers and peacemakers.

Pray the newspaper – give each person a part of a newspaper.

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. [\[a\]](#)"

Pray for:

Leadership that brings people together;

Truth from media and government;

Acceptance and tolerance of God's children;

People's sinful behaviors, violence, greed and hate.

Pray for the church – replica or picture of a church may be used as a visual

2 Timothy 1:6-10

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

Pray for:

The mission of the Church;

Preservation of the Gospel;

Salvation for the lost;

Faithfulness from believers.

Pray for your heart – give each person a paper heart

Psalm 25: 4-7

“Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.”

Pray for:

All the things that we hold in our hearts, fears or concerns that we have not spoken;

Lift up friends and family who have needs;

Praise and thanksgiving that fills our hearts with answered prayer and the overwhelming feeling that we have when we have loved ones or family dealing with pain or sickness.

CLOSING:

A FRANCISCAN BENEDICTION

(can be used with either program/service)

May God bless you with discomfort
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
to turn their pain into joy.

And May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Amen