



KENILWORTH UNION
CHURCH

**Kenilworth Union Church
Prayer brings to our praise God.
September 15, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.**

[Connect to Mid-Day Prayer](#)

“Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord
as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.”
- **Psalm 146:1-2**

Opening Response

Leader: We gather to meet with God

All: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Leader: To give God praise

All: and to seek God’s face

Leader: to bring before God all our days

All: and every part of our lives

Leader: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, draw near to us

All: as we draw near to you. Amen.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 114

When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of
strange language,

Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel God's dominion.

The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

Scripture Reading

Romans 14:7–12

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A Connected Church

edited from Lillian Daniel

I would like to think that God is always bringing out the best in people, but sometimes it seems like people act their very worst around God.

Someone who, on any other topic, would be open-minded becomes judgmental on the topic of God. It's always the true believer who says that everyone else is wrong.

Sometimes when atheists and Christians debate, I want both teams to be disqualified. If I were God, I wouldn't want any of them arguing on my behalf or even in my ballpark.

But then I remember all the quiet people. They are all over God's house and all over the world. They quietly live the God-life without drawing attention to themselves. They listen more than they lecture. They give more examples and fewer instructions.

They have that God-given maturity that makes them comfortable enough to sit back when the immature people are taking up all the space. They are the ones who will stay around to pick up the pieces. In God's house, and out in the world, they're the ones who set up the chairs and then put them away afterwards. (Perhaps, in their own immature pasts, they threw a few pieces themselves.)

We don't just land in the world—everybody has to come from somewhere.

Maybe the way to maturity is through immaturity. Maybe both conditions are gifts from God, who thought the journey would be good for us.

Prayers of the People

Lord God, how easily we can become focused on judging others rather than turning our thoughts to you. Let us be filled with awe and reverence at your divine and never-ending goodness. Help us be mindful of your merciful patience and understanding ways. We recognize your character in old hymns like these: "Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty victorious, thy great name we praise." Enable us to see your faithfulness in our lives and beckon us to make time for prayer so that we may listen for you. As we quietly confess our own limitations, help us also to offer compassion to others who need the same mercy.

We continue to pray earnestly for a vaccine for Covide-19. We pray for justice for those who have been wronged and calm voices and cool heads where there is strife. We pray both-for protection for our police, as they defend our laws- and for humane treatment of the police for those they are charged with protecting. We confess our own angers and frustrations, as well as our desires to look away from all the hardship happening so near to us. Help us to be patient helpers when things go wrong.

We pray for our beautiful church as we begin transition from outdoor to indoor worship. Please be with our Sunday schoolers and our Children's Ministry staff as they teach our children about you virtually. Please be with our church leaders God, as they work to guide safe policies for our worship in such a turbulent time. Thank you for the work of Ken Harris as he transitions from chairing our Executive Board. Thank you God, for his work and bless all the past chairs of our church who have given so unconditionally throughout their tenures.

We pray for our church membership: Today God, we name the following of our members, and ask for your blessing and protection on them:

Tom & Katie Nahrwold, Carol Narup, Scott Narup, Harold & Marlene Nations, James & Judith Neese, Ted & Lisa Neild, Dean & Maureen Nelson, Ruth Neuman, Robert & Roni Neumann, Evan & Elizabeth Newton, Julia Newton, Chris & Jennifer Nichols, John & Alexandra Nichols, Richard & Cynthia Nicolaides, James & Leslie Nix, Richard Nordstrom, Robert Norfleet, Dave & Pamela Norris, Richard & Leslie North, and Richard & Christine Norton

We pray for the work of our Outreach Partner, the WINGS agency, who provide a pathway toward independence for people whose lives have been disrupted and traumatized by domestic violence. Thank you God, for the tools WINGS offers and the resources needed to ensure that families have what they need to move toward safety, independence, and self-sufficiency. Along with life skills training, job training, and job search support, we ask your presence and blessing for both the staff at WINGS as well as people who benefit from their expertise. Oh God, we pray for adults and children who are not safe in their homes—who are the victims of domestic violence. We also pray for your grace and presence with members of our community, known to us, who need you with them at this time. We ask your care and healing.

And now Oh God, we bring our individual and private thoughts and petitions to you asking for your peace and your comfort_____

(90 seconds of silence)

How grateful we are God that we can turn to you always, for mercy and grace—for the knowledge that you never leave us. We lift all of these prayers to you, closing with the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

Prayer for the Day

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

**Your voice burns within the depths of our being,
O God of our ancestors,
and draws us into your presence and service.
Hear the cries of your people
and speak a word of comfort,
that we may proclaim to all the earth
the glory of your name. Amen.**

Blessing

David Adam

Grace to you and peace from God the Creator.
Goodness to you and peace from Christ the Redeemer.
Guidance to you and peace from the Holy Spirit of God.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
Amen.