



Kenilworth Union Church
Prayer improves our humility
September 29, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.

[Connect to Mid-Day Prayer](#)

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
Matthew 11:29

Opening Response

Leader: Welcoming God, you receive and bless all who come to you
in humility.

All: **Show us our false pride, that we may repent of all
conceit and arrogance**

Leader: and, caring for one another,

All: **may honor Jesus to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Psalm Reading

Psalm 25:1–9

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my
enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed
who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they
have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to

your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1–13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy and of one mind.

Do nothing from selfish complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A Connected Church

Talitha Arnold

I don't often read, much less quote, the King James Version of the Bible. The language is too archaic, the images of God and human beings too exclusive, and sometimes the translations are simply wrong. (In Acts 12:4, for example, the KJV translates the word for "Passover" as "Easter.")

What can you expect from a translation written by committee five hundred years ago?

Yet sometimes this translation hits the bull's eye. In King James' Psalm 138, the psalmist sings thanks to God for "thy lovingkindness and thy truth," for "thy mercy ... that endureth forever," for having "strengthenedst me with strength in my soul." (Try saying that fast.)

Lovingkindness. Truth. Mercy that endureth forever. Being strengthened with strength in our souls. I need such words from 500 years ago. I also need the KJV's translation of verse 7: "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me."

The verse centers around the Hebrew *chaya*, a derivative of *chai* (life.) Many modern English translations focus on the psalmist being kept alive, or their life being preserved or kept safe. Yet I think the KJV's "thou wilt revive me" captures the core meaning of *chaya* or "re-life." Yes, having one's life saved, preserved or kept safe is important, but this psalmist rejoices that even in the midst of trouble, God will "re-life" – a.k.a. "revive" – them.

In the midst of a pandemic and the troubles of this time, I could use some reviving. Perhaps you could, too. Maybe those old translators knew what they were doing after all.

Prayers of the People

Good and gracious God, we gather to pray before you with deep gratitude for our lives. Please help us to be mindful daily of your call to unity and humility. Please revive and steady us. We are so grateful for Jesus, who models how to serve, and these traits run so counter to our own inclinations and the inclinations of our country. Please enable us, as only you are able, to pause before we speak, and to develop a spirit of humility in order to bring harmony, unity and Christian maturity, as we live each day you give us. We remember before you in reverence, Jesus' ultimate gift of surrender and grace, given for our salvation.

We pray oh God, that you intercede in the lives of those who faithfully serve as trustees of this church. We thank you for their faithfulness in

participating in a community of faith and for their commitment to oversee the needs and ministries of this church. Bless their mission and work and inspire them with your Spirit to live out their faith each day.

We pray for our church membership and this week we pray for the following of our members: for inspiration, care, encourage and faith we name: Jeanine Papageorge, Gail Pascus, Scott & Susan Patterson, Don & Connie Patterson, Michael & Jennifer Patterson, Dick & Jean Patterson, William Patterson & Nancy Jaffee, Chris & Ali Pearson, Brian Pendleton, Joan Pendleton, Hyde & Ann Perce, Ben & Sally Perks, Norm & Mary Petelik, Ann Petersen, Mike & Laurie Petersen, Duff & Lisa Peterson, John & Julie Peterson, Rick & Kate Peterson, Tim & Julia Peterson, and Doug & Judy Petrie

We pray for the victims of tornado and hurricane, violence and injustice. We pray for the health and endurance of those who are suffering from or tending to - Covid-19 victims. We pray in thanksgiving for those who have survived, and we pray for your mercy and welcome for those who have perished. We pray for peace for those mourning or struggling. We pray for our leaders—in our country, in our community—and in this church. We pray for your presence in heartbreak as well as joy.

We pray for the work of the Youth Organization Umbrella, Inc. (Y.O.U.), for all the ways they reach out to young people, ages 10-18, with support, guidance, and advocacy. It is their goal that all young people acquire the skills, self-confidence and opportunity to participate fully, freely and responsibly in the life of the community.

We pray for the Youth Organization's Mediation program, which provides an alternative to juvenile offenders who have committed non-violent crimes. Oh God, we pray for the young people in our city and communities, who need guidance during these turbulent times. And we are so grateful you are a God of second chances for young people, and all of us.

We pray too for those who are known to us, who need your care today; be for them a source of strength and healing.

Now, Holy God, we come to you with the prayers and petitions of our most true selves and we name them to you in silence: _____ (*90 seconds of silence*)

We pray all these things to you, our loving God, we pray to you with the words 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

O lord God,
Creator above us,
Lord ahead of us,
Open us to yourself,
That we may become transparent to ourselves,
That we may be the servants of others.

Blessing

David Adam

The love of God be your strength,
The power of the Saviour be your hope,
The grace of the spirit be your peace.
Amen