



Kenilworth Union Church
Prayer enhances our ability to look outward and upward
November 24, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.
CONNECT TO MID-DAY PRAYER

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
Thessalonians 5:16–18

Opening Response

Psalm 100 adaptation

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before God with joyful songs.**
Know that the LORD is God,
who made us and we belong to God.
We are God’s people, the sheep of the LORD’s pasture.
Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving
and God’s courts with praise;
give thanks to God and praise God’s name.
**For the LORD is good with love that endures forever;
God’s faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Psalm Reading

Psalm 65

God of Zion, to you even silence is praise.
Promises made to you are kept—
you listen to prayer—and all living things come to you.
When wrongdoings become too much for me, you forgive our sins.
How happy is the one you choose to bring close,
the one who lives in your courtyards!
**We are filled full by the goodness of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.**

In righteousness you answer us,
by your awesome deeds,
**God of our salvation—you, who are the security
of all the far edges of the earth, even the distant seas.**
You establish the mountains by your strength;
you are dressed in raw power.
**You calm the roaring seas; calm the roaring waves,
calm the noise of the nations.**
Those who dwell on the far edges stand in awe of your acts.
You make the gateways of morning and evening sing for joy.
You visit the earth and make it abundant, enriching it greatly
by God’s stream, full of water.
You provide people with grain because that is what you’ve decided.
Drenching the earth’s furrows, leveling its ridges,
you soften it with rain showers; you bless its growth.
**You crown the year with your goodness;
your paths overflow with rich food.**
Even the desert pastures drip with it, and the hills are dressed in pure joy.
**The meadowlands are covered with flocks,
the valleys decked out in grain—they shout for joy;
they break out in song!**

Scripture Reading

Luke 17:11–19, translated by Andy Gaus

And it happened as he was journeying to Jerusalem that Jesus passed through the middle of Samaria and Galilee.

And as he was entering a certain village, he was met by ten men with leprosy, who stood at a distance and raised their voices, saying, “Master Jesus, have pity on us.”

And seeing them he said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” And what happened was that as they went their way, they were cleansed. One of them, though, seeing he had been healed, came back glorifying God with a loud voice and fell on his face at his feet thanking him – he was a Samaritan.

Jesus responded, “Weren’t all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was nobody seen returning to give glory to God but this one foreigner?” And he said to him, “Get up and go your way, your trust has saved you.”

A Connected Church

Leonora Tubbs Tisdale

I have long wondered what the difference was between the one leper who went back to thank Jesus for his healing, and the other nine who did not. Surely all of them must have been overjoyed to have clean skin once again. Yet only one of them – the Samaritan – seemed to recognize the grace at the heart of it all. And it was to that one alone that Jesus also said, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.” All had been cured, but only one, through gratitude, had been made whole.

While gratitude may come more naturally to some of us than to others, it is a spiritual practice we can also nurture in our lives. What a difference it would make to start each day by naming all those things we have to be thankful for in the past twenty-four hours, rather than by listing all the things we need to get done in the next twenty-four. What a difference it would make if we paused – in the midst of an overwhelming day – to put on those 3-D glasses and count our blessings. And what a difference it would make if we, like the tenth leper, made a practice of regularly saying “thank you” to God – not only for the big miracles we experience in our lives but also for the small graces.

Jesus wants to make all of us whole. So perhaps we need to rename the houses in our own hearts “gratitude.”

Prayers of the People

Generous and Living God, we gather together in prayer to thank you for the innumerable blessings that you rain on us and in our lives – so many gifts that we are the beneficiaries of. The gifts of health and connection, the gifts of this church, the gifts of our lives in this country. The gifts of technology that allow us to be gathered here in one voice of thanksgiving. And other gifts, Gracious God, which we name before you now in silence: _____ (*90 seconds of silence*)

We are thankful for the many members of this church who create community and work for your kingdom on Earth. We lift up the following of our members today, for their health, faith, and protection: Randall Simonds, Richard & Bonnie Simonds, John & Laura Simpson, Ron Sipiora and Gretchen Bodum, Greg & Patti Skirving, Sharon Smarsh & Jim Beyl, Sue Smart, Rick & Holly Smirl, Don & Zig Smith, Ned Smith & Erin McShane-Smith, Garret & Mary Smith, Ralph & Sallie Smith, Jeffrey Snell, Robert & Chris Snell, Andrew & Tonje Snow, John Snyder & Mignon Dupepe, Laura & Scott Snyder, Sigrid Sola, Tor & Jen Solberg, and Marguerite-Tommy Solberg

We pray for a smooth transition of power in our political institutions God. No matter where we stand in our personal political beliefs, we pray for our country in this time of tumult. We thank you for the men and women who work in defense of our country, and we pray for their safety. We pray for all of our world leaders. We pray for peace.

In the midst of this moment and this week of vibrant thanksgiving, oh God, we recognize there are people so overwhelmed, that they are unable to raise their voices in gratitude or to see you at work in this world.

We pray for people who face disaster—from the elements, from war, injustice, poverty, strife, hunger, violence, and from death. We pray for those who mourn, who labor for little, who are anxious and forlorn, who don't see hope, who feel unloved and unseen. We pray for mercy and your compassion on these, your people, oh God.

And create in us, most gracious God, the desire, persistence and resilience to BE the lights that reflect you and your glory. Inspire us, together, to reach out and to help where things seem hopeless, to listen and stand by, in the face of tragedy and difficulty.

We pray specifically, for those known to us who need your care and your love more than ever.

We end this prayer in gratitude Oh God, for warm homes, loving family and friends, for your provision and for your bounty. We pray these things to you in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

**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.**

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all people here below.
Praise Him above the heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Blessing

Now, wherever we are, and in every place,
and at every hour, throughout each time of each day,
may all of us honestly and humbly believe, holding in our hearts
to love, honor, adore, serve, praise, bless, glorify, exalt, magnify,
and give thanks to the Most High and Eternal God,
Trinity and Unity. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi