



KENILWORTH UNION
CHURCH

Kenilworth Union Church
Mid-Day Prayer
Tuesday, August 9, 2022, 12:15 p.m.

Connect to Mid-Day Prayer Here

*Do not wait for miracles,
but put yourself to
redeeming the world.
Do not wait for God's grace
to descend upon you,
but give grace to others.
Love life, all of life,
putting your own
neither first nor last.
Do not drop what is
precious in your hands.*

—Michael Benedikt

Opening

Leader: With nature in its power and beauty,
with rain and wind and sunshine,
with the ancient rocks and the budding flower.

All: We gather in praise of God.

Leader: With believers and seekers the whole worldwide,
with people in every land,
and speakers of every language,

All: We gather in praise of God.

Leader: With Jesus who promised his presence
and the spirit who showers her blessings,
we gather in praise of God.

**All: Here let heaven and earth embrace;
here may God's people find home.**

Old Testament Verses

Blessed are those who find wisdom, who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. Proverbs 3:13–14

This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them for this is their lot. Ecclesiastes 5:18

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17

Selected Verses

Scripture Readings

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5–6

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23–24

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. James 3:17

A Connected Church

Kenneth Samuel

Back in the 1950s a wealthy ship owner received word that one of his ships was stalled in a New York harbor. For some unknown reason, the ship captain and mechanical crew could not get the engine to start.

Ship engineers from across New York and New England were brought to the ship to rectify the problem, but despite their extensive bank of knowledge, the engine wouldn't start, and the ship remained stalled.

One exasperated engineer finally went to the ship owner and said, "Just about everything I know about ships I learned from a negro engineer," he said. "He's retired now, living down in Georgetown, South Carolina.

We haven't been able to figure out this engine problem, but this guy might be able to help." The ship owner agreed and sent for the engineer. Upon boarding the ship, he was ushered down to the engine room. After looking around a few minutes, he opened his toolbox and pulled out a mallet. He then reached behind a large pipe and adroitly tapped on a smaller pipe three times.

After tapping, the crew was directed to start the engine ... and voila! The engine started. The appreciative ship owner said to the engineer, "Thank you. Please send me your bill for this service." Upon receipt of an invoice for \$3,000, the ship builder was taken aback. "He was only onboard the vessel for about thirty minutes," he exclaimed. "Ask him to send me an itemized invoice."

The ship builder then received this: For tapping on pipe...\$3. For knowing where to tap...\$2,997. Knowledge of details has never been enough to run the engines of our society. Beyond all our logistical expertise we must understand what particular social pipelines need our attention. Only wisdom can tell us where to tap.

Prayers of the People

Oh God of goodness of summer and sunlight we gather on this August day to thank you for life, for our loves, for wisdom born of experience and we thank you God for humor. We are grateful for the food and drink of summer, for the satisfaction we feel in completing good work for moments of respite and rest in the sunshine for all the days you have given us.

We are glad and grateful for this church and for the history we share here. Thank you for all who have worked and worshipped here. We earnestly pray for your presence and blessing for the following of our church members: Ron and Nancy Kurz; Jim and Julia Kyle; Mary Lambert; David and Darlene Landsittel; Penny Lanphier Gregg and Sue Latterman; Morley and Diana Lautens; Connor and Kelsey Lawrie; Craig and Lisa Lawson; Harold and Missy Leddy; Lydia Lee; Sue Leech; Adam and Jessica LeFebvre; Paul and Leslie LeFebvre; Ryan and Michelle LeFebvre; Gregg and Carolyn Lemein; Nancy Lemein; Ned Leuchtner; Michelle Leuchtner; Steven and Karen Levin.

We rest in silence and offer our innermost joys and concerns to you, O loving creator. God of all things, great and small, we offer our thoughts and prayers to the people who make things work, who have continued working throughout Covid, through fire and catastrophic weather, who have cleared, repaired, and fixed what is broken for those who use their experience and wisdom to make things better for those who doggedly persist through all manner of adversity for those who find or make a way when all seems lost and everyone else claims progress is impossible.

We pray in thanksgiving for those whose work goes mostly unnoticed—for those who rarely hear expressed appreciation. Let your favor rest upon these your beloved God. Season us with salt and thank you for knowing just where to “tap” us God, gently or more firmly, to align our thoughts and wills more closely to your own. Help us God to recognize and acknowledge the participation of all people and make us radical in our acceptance of those who are different from us and loved equally by you. How glad and grateful we are for the people who act as glue who lead or follow in order to hold things together.

Sometimes the world seems so violent and fragile, fragmented and frightening. Sometimes we feel that way inside as well. We know that you are the ultimate super glue God. You hold us together at our centers.

We pray for all the places in the world that are violent and broken. We pray for people who are suffering, lost, and who feel abandoned by all that is good in life. We pray for your inexhaustible light. And we pray for your spirit to give us hope and energy when our own efforts are not enough. Speak through our collective wisdom oh God of us all, and let it break through our bonds of human inertia, to make the changes that will lead us forward. Please form us, oh God, to be fixers and helpers in this world.

We name before you, those known to us who have need of your presence and your divine healing.

Thank you God for the respite of these summer days. We offer our grateful prayers to you in the name Jesus, the one who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

Thom M. Shuman

And on the eighth day,
You said:
Share the light;
Give everyone a cool drink;
Feed those around you;
Dance under the stars;
Explore the skies and waters;
Be gentle with every creature;
You are not alone....
....and relax (it's not all about you).