

PRAYER VIGIL

Trinity Presbyterian Church — July 3-4, 2020

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved. . . .

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Every spring and autumn, for the last seven years, we have spent a day in prayer as a congregation. During these challenging days, it seemed beneficial to offer us an opportunity to pray, as the Apostle Paul encourages us, “for everyone, for . . . all who are in high positions.” On this July 4th weekend, I am glad you have come here to pray for our nation, our leaders and “for everyone.” May the Lord bless your prayers and use us to be part of God’s answer to our prayers.

During this weekend, when we celebrate our liberty as a nation, none of us can be unaware of the great challenges we are facing. We all need to be enlivened by the grace of God that we experience when we spend sustained time in prayer. May God speak to our hearts this day and night. May God use our lives to touch the hearts of others with faith, hope and love.

Below are some guidelines for how to use this time.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Romans 8:26

Using the Time

The goal of this Prayer Vigil is to allow us to pray for our nation, our communities and our church family. Prayer is nothing more (or less) than conversation with the God we know in Jesus Christ. Prayer is one of the most important ways in which we are guided by the Holy Spirit and are strengthened to live as followers of Christ in this present moment. While in our own homes, we are gathering together in prayer, to ask the Holy Spirit to help us.

✦ Prayerfully Reading God's Word

- Below are key verses that you might want to read, perhaps more than once. How does the passage strike you? Is it a comfort or a challenge, or somehow, both? Allow a minute or two of silence before moving to the next passage. In the silence, do you sense God leading you to thoughts, memories, feelings? Take the time you need to listen for what God is saying to you in this moment. Remember: Jesus Christ is with you.

- o 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 – If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

- o Acts 17:26-31 – From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a

man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising Christ from the dead.”

o Jeremiah 18:1-10 – The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

o John 3:16-21 – For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

✧ *Prayerfully Offering a Song*

- As you move from this time of prayerful reflection on God's Word, it might be helpful to take a few moments to offer God a song. The hymns offered at the end of this guide may all be sung prayerfully; this is especially true of "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." You could sing one or more songs, if you so choose, or perhaps simply reading one out loud would be what you would prefer.

✧ *Quieting Our Hearts and Minds*

- Having listened to God's Word and perhaps having sung a hymn, you are invited to use the next several minutes of your prayer time to quiet yourself and enter more deeply into the peace of Christ. You might begin with a short phrase you slowly repeat several times. Your prayer might include phrases like, "O Lord, quiet my heart" or "God, fill me with Your peace." or "I am here, Lord; ready for you to speak." It might be helpful to change your position for this time; you might want to sit or stand or kneel—whatever is most comfortable for you and will help you focus on God's presence with you. We continue to face very difficult times, so be assured that God looks upon you with amazing love, so feel free to express your deepest thoughts and feelings.

✧ *Conversing with the Lord, Heart to Heart*

- As you near the end of this hour, you have time to thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help us in our need. You have time to pray for yourself and those you love and for our deeply hurting nation and our badly aching world. You have time to cry out your hurt and your fear and your anger. You also have time to praise God for simply being God and filling your life with hope and strength.
- You can pray about anything you wish or perhaps you feel the Holy Spirit leading you into a specific topic.

- You might pray for:
 - Our world...and the anxiety that fills this moment in our lives.
 - Our church...and ask God to help us as we try to follow God's commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.
 - For someone dear to you...who needs God's help.
- Pray for yourself
 - God, what work do you have for me to do?
 - Lord Christ, I'm afraid; help me.
 - Fill me with your Holy Spirit!

✧ *Prayerfully Writing*

• As you near the end of your time, consider writing something about your time. If we were at church, there would be a public journal for this, but maybe you want to write something to tuck in your Bible. Or perhaps you'd like to write something and email it to Dr. Faulkner to be placed with our Vigil journals as a record of this at-home Vigil. Journaling is a very ancient spiritual practice and it offers a helpful way to bring a conclusion to your time of conversation with the Lord. You could write about your experience in this time of prayer: what are thoughts and feelings that occurred while you prayed? What questions or insights surfaced? What, if anything, did you hear God say to you? You might rather write out a prayer that expresses your heart to the Heart of God. Whether you write something, is up to you. Whether you keep it for you or share it with our church family is also completely up to you.

May the Lord our God richly bless your time in prayer and may this day of prayer enrich our entire congregation's life in Christ and help us bring greater glory to God as we work for justice and peace and love to fill our lives and the lives of our neighbors.

Ancient Irish poem
 Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad
 Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

LIFE IN CHRIST

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Take, O take me as I am

gently

Take, O take me as I am; — sum - mon out what I shall be; —

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 4/4 time and the key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me. —

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in treble and bass clefs, maintaining the 4/4 time and two-flat key signature. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

MATERNA CMD

Katharine Lee Bates, 1893

Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

1. O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, For am-ber waves of grain,
 2. O beau-ti-ful for pil-grim feet, Whose stern, im-pas-sioned stress
 3. O beau-ti-ful for he-ros proved In lib-er-at-ing strife,
 4. O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream That sees be-yond the years

For pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties A-bove the fruit-ed plain!
 A thor-ough-fare for free-dom beat A-cross the wil-der-ness!
 Who more than self their coun-try loved, And mer-cy more than life!
 Thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, Un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed His grace on thee,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed His grace on thee

And crown thy good with *broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea!
 Con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, Thy lib-er-ty in law!
 Till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness And ev-ery gain di-vine!
 And crown thy good with *broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea!

*Or "servanthood."

Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory (Battle Hymn)

Words by
Julia Ward Howe

Music by
William Steffe

♩ = 90

(Optional chords in parentheses)

VERSE

B \flat **B \flat /D**

1. Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord, He is
 2. I have seen Him in the watch - fires of a hun - dred cir - cling camps; They have
 3. He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat, He is
 4. In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea, with a

E \flat **B \flat**

3 tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath
 build - ed Him an al - tar in the eve - ning dews and damps; I can
 sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore His judg - ment seat; O, be
 glo - ry in His bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me; As He

B \flat /D **E \flat** **(B \flat /F)** **(F 7)**

5 loosed the fate - ful light - ning of His ter - ri - ble, swift sword; His truth is march - ing
 read His right - eous sen - tence by the dim and flar - ing lamps. His day is march - ing
 swift, my soul, to an - swer Him! be ju - bi - lant, my feet! Our God is march - ing
 died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free, while God is march - ing

Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory (Battle Hymn) - 2

CHORUS

8 B \flat B \flat B \flat /D E \flat

on. Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Hal - le -

on.
on.
on.

12 B \flat B \flat /D E \flat (B \flat /F)(F 7) F B \flat

-lu - jah! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.
(Our God)

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