

PRAY EVERY DAY May 24, 2020 Resource

Temple Destroyed and Prayer for Help from Psalm 79:1, 8-9, NRSV

O God, the nations have come into your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors;
Let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.
Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.

Hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" by Charles Wesley, 1740

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name, I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound, make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

May 6 – 26 "Fruit of the Spirit: Peace"	May 27 – June 16 "Fruit of the Spirit: Patience"
May 25: James 3:16-18	May 29: Psalm 27:14
May 26: Proverbs 3:1-2, 13-17	May 30: Psalm 130:1-8
May 27: Psalm 37:5-9	May 31: Isaiah 40:28-31
May 28: Psalm 40:1-3	

Small Group or Personal Study

Pastor Joel is preaching a series on the theme of "temple." The temple theme runs through the Bible as a way that God dwells with us. Some of the lowest points in the Bible echo the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem when the people of Judah not only lost the temple, but also their reigning king and access to the land to be carried off into exile.

Read 2 Kings 24:18 – 25:21.

- The destruction of the temple relates to a sense of some loss of access to God like in the exile from Eden and the death of Jesus. Have you ever been through circumstances where it seemed you lost access to God's presence?

- Ejection from Eden came after rebellion and disobedience against God. The destruction of temple came after centuries of idolatry, rejecting God's ways, and injustice toward the poor and immigrants. The crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus came from Jesus being betrayed and abandoned by disciples and rejected and opposed by religious leaders. Where is there sin separating us from God's presence in the world? In the church? In your life?

- The destruction of the temple was not the end of the story of God dwelling in our world. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah describe God's grace in the building a temple that coincided with return from exile and rebuilding Jerusalem. God is patient, faithful, and keeps promises so even when we sin or the whole world sins, God makes ways to return to life together in God's grace. Describe a time in your life you were aware of your need for God or God's help. Tell the story of a time God came to you with help that brought hope, faith, salvation, or restoration.

- Take 15 minutes to silence yourself and pray God's name by breathing, in and out, through your mouth as we learned in Week 1 of the "temple" themed series. Breathe in, "Yah" and breathe out, "way." If mouth breathing becomes strained, resume regular breathing resting silently in God's presence.

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord's Prayer

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
AMEN.

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Share about it this week in small group for support and prayer.

Take Us from Groaning Prayers to Praise from Psalm 79:11, 13, NRSV

Let the groans of the prisoners come before you;

according to your great power preserve those doomed to die.

Then we your people, the flock of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever;

from generation to generation we will recount your praise.