

PRAY EVERY DAY June 14, 2020 Resource

Looking to the Lord from Psalm 11:4-5, NRSV

The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven.
His eyes behold, his gaze examines humankind.
The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked,
and his soul hates the lover of violence.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

May 27 – June 16 “Fruit of the Spirit: Patience”

June 17 – July 7 “Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness”

June 15: James 5:7-11

June 19: Psalm 145:10-13

June 16: 2 Peter 3:8-10

June 20: Psalm 145:14-17

June 17: Titus 3:1-6

June 21: Micah 6:8

June 18: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Small Group or Personal Study

Pastor Joel is preaching a series on the theme of “temple.” There is an image of the “last temple” in Revelation 21 – 22 . When you read this passage note where God’s presence and light are and that the city image described is “the bride of the Lamb” (v. 21:9) which is a word for the people of God and that the city is full of people images in the 12 tribes of Israel, 12 apostles, and that people of God number, 12, shows up in a big way in the dimensions of the city which are 12,000 stadia wide, long, and high.

Read Revelation 21:9 – 22:7

- Notice that there is no temple in the city but God and the Lamb are the temple. People dwell right in the presence of God. Notice the light and glory of God shine constantly there and everything is clear and transparent to let the light shine throughout. Where and when are the times or activities that God’s presence and grace shine most clearly to you? Where and when does God’s grace seem most blocked out or even impossible to find?

- See how “precious jewels” adorn the foundations of the city. Foundations for cities could be viewed from the outside of the city. What are some of the precious things of God to you (forgiveness, grace, hearing prayers, healing the sick, redemption)? What does it say to you about God that God places precious things on the outside of the city “for the taking”? How are you making the precious gifts of God free for the taking?

- With the city of clear gold and transparent jasper walls, the light of God would shine brilliantly through the whole people of God and out into the world. Pastor Joel said today we are sometimes more like regular church walls with windows with some places in our lives where we let God shine out and other places we are opaque and don’t let the light of God shine through. How does the light of Jesus Christ shine through your life to church and world? How do you block the light of Christ from shining to church and world?

- Take 5 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? Write it down and share about it this week in small group for support and prayer.

God Rising Up from Psalm 12:5-6, NRSV

"Because the poor are despoiled, because the needy groan,

I will now rise up," says the LORD;

"I will place them in the safety for which they long."

The promises of the LORD are promises that are pure,

Silver refined in a furnace on the ground,

purified seven times.