

PRAY EVERY DAY July 5, 2020 Resource

*A Farewell and Greeting from 2 Corinthians 13:11-23, NRSV*

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

*A Prayer for Our Country from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of the government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge*

More resources at [www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge](http://www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge)

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

July 8 – 28 “Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness”

July 6: Luke 10:25-28	July 10: Psalm 16:1-2
July 7: Luke 10:29-37	July 11: Psalm 84:11
July 8: Psalm 23	July 12: Psalm 34:8
July 9: Psalm 31:19	

*Small Group or Personal Study*

Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

- After hearing Jesus teach in parables the disciples wanted to know more about the weeds (v. 36). Jesus describes the weeds as planted by the devil, children of the evil one, causes of sin, and evildoers. Through history Christians have affirmed there are indeed weeds in the world, the church, and within our lives. What weeds do you see in the world, the church, yourself?

- In the parable, servants were surprised that there were weeds mixed in with the wheat and were very anxious about it. The servants were ready to be weed pullers, weed killer, and weed destroyers to protect the wheat. One of the surprises in Jesus’ parable is to leave the weeds alone, since pulling them would damage the wheat as well. In history and in the present when the church acts tries to weed out people through crusades, pogroms, inquisitions, and executions there has always been widespread and lasting harm. While there can be great gain from weeding your own life and soul, there is great going against Jesus in weeding out others. In following Jesus, what weeds may you need to let grow until God’s harvest?

- Many Christians notice that Jesus did not spend his whole ministry weeding, but was building up people in the grace of God. In fact, Jesus is the one who is able to transform lives so

much that there are weeds that turn into wheat. When have you witnessed Jesus transform someone from being very weed-like to be changed to bear Godly faith and fruit?

- Look at the seed sown by the Son of Man in the story which are the children of the kingdom. They are planted by Jesus, grow and are tended under Christ's care, bear fruitful seed themselves, in the midst of weeds remain wheat and stand tall, and will shine like the sun. If we were to spend our time weeding out others we would miss our calling to grow, bear fruit, shine, and join in with our Great Sower Jesus in kingdom sowing work. How is the Holy Spirit urging you to grow, shine, stand tall, or bear fruit through Jesus today?

*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.

*A Blessing from 2 Corinthians 13:13, NRSV*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.