

PRAY EVERY DAY September 20, 2020 Resource

*Made Alive with Christ from Ephesians 2:4-7, NRSV*

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*The Serenity Prayer (A Long Version)*

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.  
Amen.

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

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

September 9 – 29 “Fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control”

September 21: Titus 2:1-8

September 25: 2 Peter 1:3-7

September 22: Titus 2:11-14

September 26: 2 Peter 1:8-11

September 23: 1 Peter 4:1-6

September 27: Romans 6:1-4

September 24: 1 Peter 4:7-11

*Small Group or Personal Study*

Read Ephesians 2:4-10 and Mark 12:41-44.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- What are the challenges you are facing today? What challenges are in our community and world at this time?
- Spend a few minutes praying The Serenity Prayer above. Pray it three times and find a word or phrase to focus on in silent prayer. What is God speaking to you through that word or phrase today?
- In Ephesians 2:4-10 the good works of God are on full display. God even prepares us for doing good works. What good works has Jesus Christ prepared you for? What might Jesus be taking you through at this time to prepare you for good works toward others?
- In Mark 12:41-44 there was a widow who gave a small amount to the temple treasury, but Jesus recognized it as a great contribution as the widow gave all she had to live on. What gift, talent, ability, and time do you have to give? What would you give that might look like a big gift to others but not be a great sacrifice to you? What would you give that is like the widow’s offering that might appear small to others but is offered by you in great love for God?

*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.

*A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation*

*(The following prayer is offered by the Bishop's Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.)*

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity  
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.

You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races  
because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with false pride and racial prejudice.

Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism, private or institutional.

Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.

Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred and racism.

Bind us together with the unity of God's love. Restore oneness to the family of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived and died for all humanity. 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.

*The Gift of God from Ephesians 2:8-10, NRSV*

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.